SATURDAY
May 17, 2025

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'TROUBLING ASSAULT'

ED detains *Gujarat Samachar* owner

NEWS » PAGE 14

BLOCKADE CONTINUES

At least 93 killed in Israel strikes across Gaza Strip

WORLD » PAGE 18

'INSULTING' STATEMENTS

M.P. Deputy CM's Army remark stokes row

NEWS » PAGE 15

ON TENTERHOOKS

When home is near the border

As firing and blackouts end, villagers in Punjab hope that peace holds

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 13

ELITE CLUB

Neeraj breaches the 90-metre mark

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Polls to GBA in 4 months: DKS

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the Karnataka government will make all arrangements for holding polls to the newly created GBA in four months.

» PAGE 6

ISKCON-Bangalore is owner of Hare Krishna temple: SC

BENGALURU
A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and A.G. Masih upheld a trial court verdict that ISKCON-Bangalore was the owner of the temple and properties, thus bringing to a close a nearly 25-year-old dispute . » PAGE 4

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 11

Pak. will use IMF money to fund terror: Rajnath

Funds given to the global organisation by India should not be used to create terror infrastructure in Pakistan, says the Minister; at Bhuj Air Force station, he lauds IAF's role in Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Power point: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with defence personnel at the Bhuj Air Force station in Gujarat on Friday. PTI

Stating that Pakistan has started to rebuild its terror infrastructure destroyed by India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday questioned the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance for Pakistan, which, he said, would be directly or indirectly used to fund terrorism.

Addressing defence personnel at the Bhuj Air Force station in Gujarat, Mr. Singh called upon the IMF to reconsider its $1 billion assistance to Pakistan and refrain from any support in the future as well.

'Indirect terror fund'

"Certainly, a large part of the IMF's $1 billion assistance will be used to fund the terror infrastructure. Will this not be considered indirect funding by the IMF, an international organisation, for terror? Any financial assistance to Pakistan is no less than terror funding. The funds India gives to the IMF should not be used, directly or indirectly, to create terror infrastructure in Pakistan or any other country," the Defence Minister said.

Appreciating the Indian Air Force (IAF) for eliminating terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in just 23 minutes under Operation Sindoor, Mr. Singh said, "India's actions under Operation Sindoor were just a trailer, we will show the full picture, if need be". "The world heard the echoes of India's valour and might" when missiles were dropped inside the enemy territory, Mr. Singh added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 15

Pakistan PM calls for talks to settle issues with India

ISLAMABAD
India and Pakistan should sit down at the table like peaceful neighbours and settle their issues, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday, adding that "if peace comes", Pakistan is ready to "cooperate in counterterrorism".

» PAGE 15

Deadline for survey of SCs extended till May 25

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The door-to-door survey being conducted to ascertain identities and population of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Karnataka for the purpose of internal reservation, which was to end on May 17, has been extended till May 25.

While more than 70% of the households have been covered in the Comprehensive Survey of Scheduled Castes/Sub-Castes, 2025, the lag in Bengaluru is one of the reasons for extension of the deadline to provide enumerators more time to cover families.

As a result, special booth-level camps will be held between May 26 and May 28. Those wishing to declare online can do so between May 19 and May 28.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

NMC serves show-cause notices on all 22 govt. medical colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has served show-cause notices on all government medical colleges in Karnataka for failing to meet standard parameters, including infrastructure and faculty recruitment.

A total of 22 government medical colleges are functioning in the State, and this is the first time that such notices have been issued to all.

The Department of Medical Education (DME) has expressed surprise that even the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), which has the best infrastructure and is most sought after by students, has been given the notice.

"There is some ambiguity in the NMC show-cause notices. For example, it states that BMCRI, which has the highest number of outpatients in the State, has the Outpatient Department (OPD) numbers wrong. So, we have doubts whether they have thoroughly checked the OPD numbers," said B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education.

The notices have been issued for not appointing faculty members in medical colleges that had been started recently, mainly in Koppal, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, and Chikkamagaluru.

The 22 government medical colleges have a total of 3,500 MBBS seats. The State government, meanwhile, has submitted a proposal to NMC for an enhancement of about 800 medical seats for 2025-26. However, in the wake of the notices, there are doubts if the proposal will be cleared.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Lost and found

Rough sail: Indian Coast Guard personnel rescue six crew members of cargo ship *MSV Salamath* that sank off the Mangaluru coast on Wednesday morning leaving them adrift in a dinghy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Butterfly migration this year takes flight over Garden City earlier than expected

Experts attribute the variation to temperature changes and forecast of early onset of monsoon

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

For the last few days, Bengalureans have been awestruck by the swarm of butterflies they have noticed in their neighbourhoods, especially around lakes.

Although the migration of butterflies from Western Ghats to Eastern Ghats is a regular phenomenon before the southwest monsoon, this year, due to temperature changes, the movement and sighting of insects have increased in the region, according to experts.

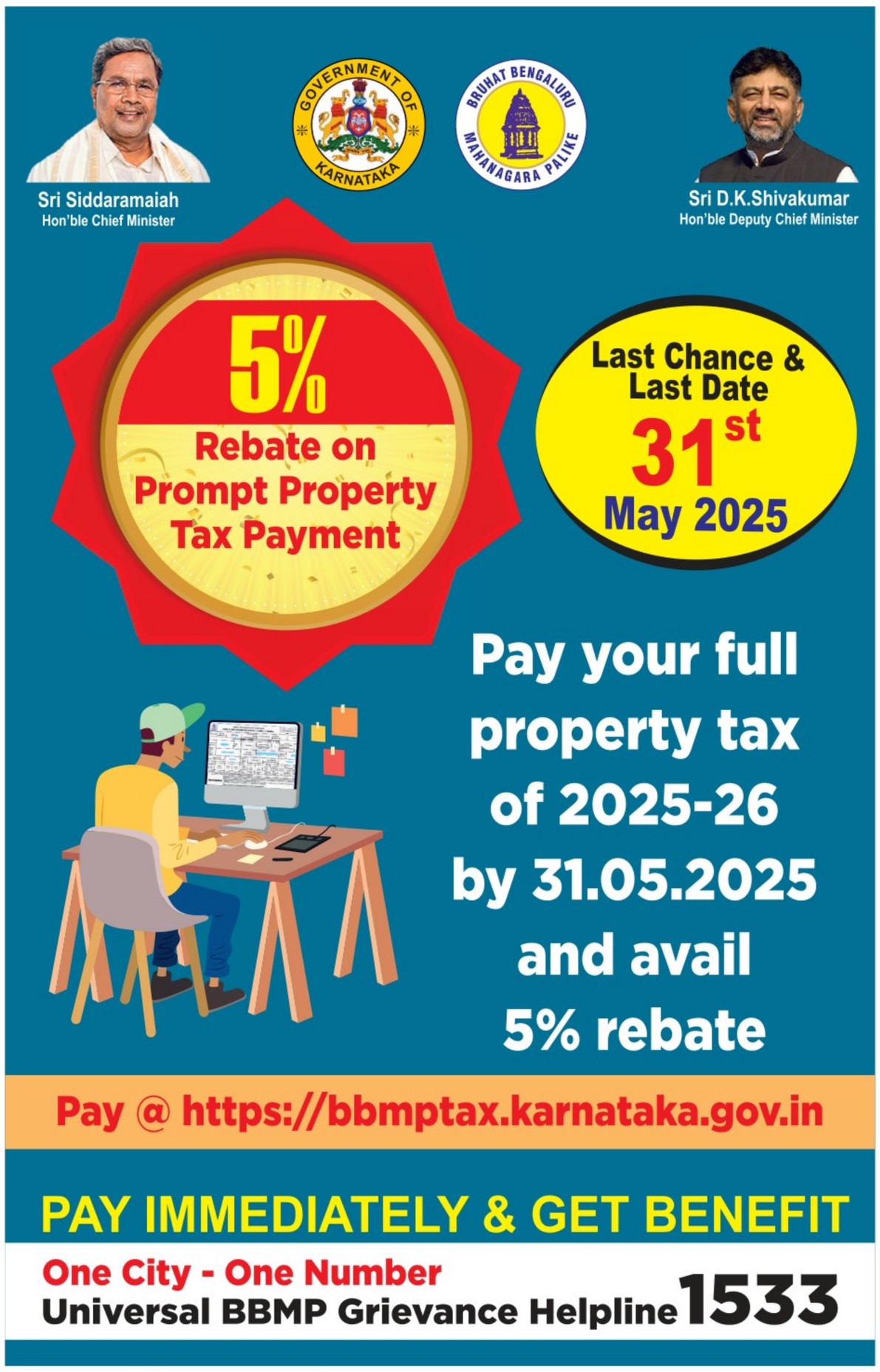
Fickle play: Experts say the pattern of migration of butterflies is dependent on monsoon and temperature. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nature observers said that while butterflies usually migrate through the outskirts of the city, after a long time, they are migrating through the city this year.

"Migration starts from the Western Ghats and ends at the Eastern Ghats as the butterflies look to escape the fury of heavy rains. After many years, this time, the butterflies are passing through Bengaluru, and that is why so many people got to see them," explained Rohit Girotra, who conducts Bengaluru Butterfly Walks (BBW) in the city.

Experts have also observed that migration is happening earlier than usual this year due to the predicted early onset of the southwest monsoon.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7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GETTY IMAGES

JASPRIT BUMRAH

K.L. RAHUL

SHUBMAN GILL

The contours of a new India in Test whites, shaped by the winds of change

The retirements of R. Ashwin, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have left India at a tipping point ahead of the England tour. Will the new generation stay invested in the five-day game? A lot will depend on coach Gautam Gambhir and the vision he has for a rather young team

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Winds of change are sweeping through the Indian Test squad. It started like a whisper, lifting a few leaves off the jungle floor when the selectors moved beyond Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane. When it was presumed that the air had settled, there was a surprise in store when R. Ashwin retired midway through the last away series against Australia.

And now, a sudden flux in team composition is upon us like a typhoon, as, over a span of five days, skipper Rohit Sharma retired from Tests and Virat Kohli followed suit. Both said their goodbyes through Instagram. Just like M.S. Dhoni's exit from international cricket, other Indian stars too are using social media to convey extraordinary decisions.

Cricketers are not immune to the promise of youth and the frailty of age. Debuts, retirements and being dropped are all inevitable

The unforgiving microscope

Cricket, like all sport, has an ageism issue and the athlete going beyond 30 summers is always subjected to intense scrutiny. Every dip in form or tear in ligament is put under an unforgiving microscope. Pujara, Rahane, Ashwin, Rohit and Kohli are past their mid-thirties, a life-milestone that nudges players towards the exit-door.

In most cases, that walk towards the twilight is final. There could be the odd exception like when the English selectors leant on veterans Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting for one last hurrah for the Ashes in Australia during the 1994-95 season. A similar instance in Indian cricket involved captain Dilip Vengsarkar pushing for the recall of Aunshuman Gaekwad in the home ODIs against the West Indies in 1987.

In the cases of Ashwin, Rohit and Kohli, they made a choice to leave, even if the last two will still play in the blue shade in ODIs. Pujara and Rahane are still pursuing domestic cricket and at times post videos of their net sessions on X, formerly Twitter. The cumulative yield of selectors' judgements and individual choices has left India at a tipping point in Tests while the whites need to be washed and pressed ahead of the England tour.

A sojourn Down Under seems to draw the curtains on storied careers. It did to Vengsarkar in 1992, the same effect was seen on Rahul Dravid and V.V.S. Laxman in 2012, and now Ashwin, Rohit and Kohli have joined this club. Cricketers are not immune to the promise of youth and the frailty of age, and debuts, retirements and being dropped are all inevitable.

If not a doomed clash against Australia, often the last full-stop is linked to an ICC event, and the current generation has four options: the World Cups (both ODIs and T20Is), the Champions Trophy and the World Test Championship. This wasn't the case with an earlier bunch, locked into a lone World Cup or a significant bilateral series like the Ashes. Many would recall Javed Miandad being run out in a rousing World Cup quarterfinal at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in 1996. It was the Pakistani great's last international outing.

The numbers that Kohli, Rohit and Ashwin have stacked up are truly staggering, but equally, a decline was evident and a churn seemed preordained. It now triggers the urgent need for a fresh unit to do battle in the five Tests in England, a series commencing in late June.

At all the critical junctures that Indian cricket dealt with in the past, a course-correction was found. When Sanjay Manjrekar and Vinod Kambli struggled to keep Sachin Tendulkar company, the 1996 England tour offered Dravid and Sourav Ganguly in the middle-order. When Tendulkar bowed out in 2013, Kohli was ready to slot himself into the hallowed No. 4 spot.

The famous spin-quartet's exit in the late 1970s and early 80s paved the way for the singular all-round brilliance of Kapil Dev. The Haryana Hurricane, though, is still missed as India's quest for a pace-bowling all-rounder continues. Right from Ajit Agarkar to Irfan Pathan to Stuart Binny to Hardik Pandya and now Nitish Kumar Reddy, this search is very much on.

At Old Blighty, K.L. Rahul and Jasprit Bumrah will have to play the role of senior statesmen while the young turks rally around them. A new captain too has to be appointed, and Rahul, Bumrah, Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are all in the mix. Bumrah is a leading candidate. He was the vice-captain during the tour of Australia and also led in two Tests there. But the workload-management of speedsters could mean that he would miss the odd contest. And Test captaincy demands a sense of permanence.

The batting core will obviously revolve around Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Gill, and the trio has the ability to prosper. Pant offers the all-round fix as enterprising batter and agile wicketkeeper. Bumrah as the spearhead is always a clear and present danger. Surely, the Indian unit in Test whites does have a beating heart that can do duty.

There is some speculation over Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja, about whether they too would retire from Tests. But if that doesn't transpire and they do board the flight to Heathrow, India does have sufficient experience in its ranks – not entirely to cover for Kohli, Rohit and Ashwin, but still enough to paper over the cracks.

The worry could be over the batters promising much and then faltering in Tests. Over the last decade, be it Karun Nair or more recently Shreyas Iyer, they haven't fully punched in their presence. Hanuma Vihari too has seemingly faded out. All three have ability, and so does Rajat Patidar. Sarfaraz Khan is there too while a buzz is building around Sai Sudarshan after Ravi Shastri backed him recently.

RISHABH PANT

An existential question

Kuldeep Yadav and company are there to shore up the spin department. India does have talent aplenty and replacements will emerge organically for a set of massive boots. However, a moot point would be whether the new generation would be as invested in Tests as the one headlined by Kohli.

The five-day format demands a lot from a player and it also subjects the athlete to multiple stress-points. Cricket's abridged versions help to gloss over inadequacies; they tend to reduce the balance between variable qualities of rival teams. Additionally, the Indian Premier League is a big draw; a modern Indian star playing all formats and then the IPL in summer would be stretched thin. Seen in that light, what Kohli and Rohit did all these years is stunning.

Cricket's revolving door means an M. Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan leave and a Jaiswal and Gill step in. Not all replacements will flourish at the same time. Core groups are formed over an extended period even if retirements happen in a clutch – think Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath in 2007. Much will hinge on coach Gautam Gambhir and the vision he has for a rather young team. The answers will become clear under the English skies.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	9,730	15
2	Alexander Zverev	28	8,085	22
3	Carlos Alcaraz	22	7,850	20
4	Taylor Fritz	27	4,815	20
5	Jack Draper	23	4,440	19
6	Novak Djokovic	37	4,130	19
7	Casper Ruud	26	3,715	24
8	Alex de Minaur	26	3,635	23
9	Lorenzo Musetti	23	3,550	22
10	Holger Rune	22	3,440	23
11	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,290	20
12	Tommy Paul	27	3,210	21
13	Ben Shelton	22	3,020	25
14	Arthur Fils	20	2,920	23
15	Grigor Dimitrov	33	2,685	19

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 169 ▼ 4 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 450 ▲ 21 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	11,118	19
2	Iga Swiatek	23	6,773	16
3	Coco Gauff	21	6,603	20
4	Jessica Pegula	31	6,243	20
5	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,875	18
6	Madison Keys	30	4,824	19
7	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,781	18
8	Qinwen Zheng	22	4,193	19
9	Emma Navarro	23	3,797	25
10	Paula Badosa	27	3,761	21
11	Diana Shnaider	21	3,023	28
12	Elena Rybakina	25	2,983	18
13	Karolina Muchova	28	2,919	18
14	Elina Svitolina	30	2,810	17
15	Daria Kasatkina	28	2,686	24

Top Indians ▶

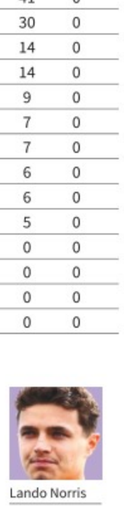
Ankita Raina
Rank 308 ▼ 2 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 323 ▼ 3 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	131	4
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	115	1
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	99	1
4	George Russell	Mercedes	93	0
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	53	0
6	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	48	0
7	Lewis Hamilton	Ferrari	41	0
8	Alexander Albon	Williams	30	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Haas	14	0
10	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	14	0
11	Yuki Tsunoda	Red Bull	9	0
12	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	7	0
13	Carlos Sainz	Williams	7	0
14	Nico Hulkenberg	Sauber	6	0
15	Oliver Bearman	Haas	6	0
16	Isack Hadjar	Racing Bulls	5	0
17	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	0	0
18	Liam Lawson	Racing Bulls	0	0
19	Jack Doohan	Alpine	0	0
20	Gabriel Bortoleto	Sauber	0	0

Oscar Piastri


Lando Norris

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	246	5
2	Mercedes	141	0
3	Red Bull	105	1
4	Ferrari	94	0
5	Williams	37	0
6	Haas	20	0
7	Aston Martin	14	0
8	RB	8	0
9	Alpine	7	0
10	Kick Sauber	6	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	1,00,117	13
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	89,999	17
3	Anders Antonsen	87,693	19
4	Li Shi Feng	81,628	18
5	Jonatan Christie	80,614	16
6	Viktor Axelsen	80,340	12
7	Chou Tien Chen	77,499	23
8	Kodai Naraoka	74,584	20
9	Alex Lanier	70,671	15
10	Lee Zii Jia	69,330	13
11	Loh Kean Yew	65,699	21
12	Kenta Nishimoto	60,772	21
13	Koki Watanabe	58,864	14
14	Lu Guang Zu	58,750	18
15	Weng Hong Yang	58,730	15

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 18

Priyanshu Rajawat
Rank 33

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,13,320	11
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,00,582	18
3	Han Yue	82,100	18
4	Akane Yamaguchi	78,974	12
5	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	75,960	16
6	Pornpawee Chochuwong	70,778	22
7	Tomoka Miyazaki	70,444	21
8	Chen Yu Fei	68,435	9
9	Supanida Katethong	67,887	15
10	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	62,460	17
11	Ratchanok Intanon	61,804	19
12	Yeo Jia Min	61,583	16
13	Gao Fang Jie	61,050	13
14	Putri Kusuma Wardani	60,890	18
15	Sim Yu Jin	56,039	15

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 16

Malvika Bansod
Rank 23

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	895	932
2	Harry Brook	876	898
3	Kane Williamson	867	919
4	Yashasvi Jaiswal	847	854
5	Steve Smith	823	947
6	Temba Bavuma	769	769
7	Kamindu Mendis	761	779
8	Travis Head	748	884
9	Usman Khawaja	739	847
9	Rishabh Pant	739	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	908	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	837	902
3	Pat Cummins	824	914
4	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
5	Nathan Lyon	812	812
6	Noman Ali	806	806
7	Marco Jansen	785	803
8	Matt Henry	782	782
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	801
10	Ravindra Jadeja	745	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Babar Azam	766	898
3	Rohit Sharma	756	882
4	Heinrich Klaasen	744	760
5	Virat Kohli	736	909
6	Daryl Mitchell	720	750
7	Harry Tector	713	767
8	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
9	Charith Asalanka	694	694
10	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	680	686
2	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
3	Keshav Maharaj	648	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	644	648
5	Rashid Khan	640	799
6	Mitchell Santner	637	657
7	Gudakesh Motie	632	639
8	Matt Henry	622	691
9	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733
10	Adam Zampa	614	699

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	856	885
2	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
3	Philip Salt	815	881
4	Tilak Varma	804	845
5	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
6	Jos Buttler	735	756
7	Pathum Nissanka	714	722
8	Tim Seifert	708	708
9	Babar Azam	688	900
10	Kusal Perera	676	786

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jacob Duffy	723	723
2	Akeal Hosein	707	714
3	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
4	Adil Rashid	705	747
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	700	809
6	Adam Zampa	694	746
7	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
8	Maheesh Theekshana	666	686
9	Rashid Khan	664	828
10	Arshdeep Singh	653	679

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Metro extension to Tumakuru: BMRCL submits report

Proposed 59.6-km stretch will feature 26 stations and, if approved, will become the first inter-city corridor under Namma Metro network

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has submitted a feasibility study to the State government to extend the Namma Metro's Green Line from Madavara to Tumakuru. The proposed 59.6-km stretch will feature 26 stations and, if approved, would become the first inter-city metro corridor under the Namma Metro network.

The feasibility report has been prepared by Hyderabad-based Aarvee Associates Architects Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd, which was awarded the contract on June 29, 2024, for ₹1.25 crore. The firm has examined the technical and economic viability of building the line along Tumakuru Road stretch, and the corridor will be developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Key stations

Key locations along the proposed metro corridor include Makali, Dasanapura, Nelamangala, Nelamangala Tollgate, T. Begur, Thippagondanahalli, Sompura Industrial Area, Dobbspet, Hirehalli Industrial Area, Kyatsandra, Tumakuru Bus Stand, TUDA Layout, and Nagannanapalya..

The proposal comes in response to long-standing demands from Tumakuru residents and elected representatives, including Karnataka Home Minister and Koratagere MLA G. Parameshwara.

Proposed Tumakuru Metro Extension

- Route length: **59.60 km**
- Total stations: **26**
- From: Madavara
- To: Nagannanapalya (Tumakuru)

Proposed key stations

- Makali
- Dasanapura
- Nelamangala
- Nelamangala Tollgate
- T. Begur
- Thippagondanahalli
- Sompura Industrial Area
- Dobbspet
- Hirehalli Industrial Area
- Kyatsandra
- Tumakuru bus stand
- TUDA Layout
- Nagannanapalya

Govt. plans to adopt a PPP model for the execution

Tumakuru, located approximately 70 km northwest of Bengaluru, is a growing city with thousands commuting daily to Bengaluru for work by train and bus. Calls to extend metro connectivity to Tumakuru have intensified over the past few years.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the proposal in the 2024 State Budget, paving the way for the feasibility study. With the submission of the report, the next step will be for the State Cabinet to approve the proposal. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) will then be prepared and submitted to the Centre for final approval.

"This is a long-pending demand of the people of Tumakuru. The feasibility study has been completed by a Hyderabad-based company and will soon be reviewed by the government. It will be placed before the Cabinet for approval," said Mr. Parameshwara. He added that Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna is also expected to support the project at the Centre.

Given the massive scale and financial implications of the project, the government plans to adopt a PPP model for execution.

"A reputed company from Qatar has expressed willingness to invest around ₹25,000 crore in Karnataka. This includes the Tumakuru metro project and a 2,500-MW solar power plant spread over 10,000 acres in Pavagada," Mr. Parameshwara said.

Man kills wife over domestic row, surrenders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A carpenter, Ramesh, 51, surrendered at the Banaswadi police station and allegedly confessed to killing his wife, Kalaivani, 47, over a family dispute in the wee hours of Friday, sources said.

Ramesh had divorced his first wife, with whom he had two children, and married Kalaivani. However, Kalaivani reportedly objected to him contacting his first wife and children. Following a fight over the issue on Friday morning, he reportedly stabbed Kalaivani to death with a carpentry tool. Hours later, he surrendered before the police, sources said.

The Banaswadi police have booked him for murder and arrested him.

City police launch 'BCPChat' for structured internal communication

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

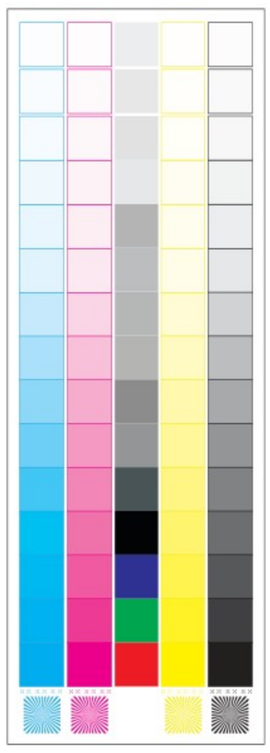
Bengaluru city police have launched a dedicated messaging platform, 'BCPChat', for the department's internal use.

BCP Commissioner B. Dayananda said the messaging application was "tailored to support secure, efficient and structured communication within the department", its access controlled to only authorised police officers and ensured robust data protection as all data will be stored at the Karnataka State Data Centre.

The app is built to ensure a structured sharing of information, including VIP locations and movements, daily crime reports, daily situation reports, and media coverage, among others. The application also facilitates the sharing of all government orders, like notices, circulars and guidelines, to all officers as and when required.

Access to archives

The app also features an efficient search module enabling a quick search and access to archives, documents pertaining to criminals, cases, etc.



'Social Hackathon 2025' held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGLAURU

The CMR Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, hosted a two-day 'Social Hackathon 2025', a national-level 24-hour event championing technological solutions for societal impact. From over 480 entries, 95 teams were shortlisted from top institutions.

A standout project was the 'Smart pothole avoidance system' developed by Joshith Talakoti and Dhruv Ranjan, 9th and 10th graders from National Public School. The initiative aims at reducing road accidents and aiding city infrastructure planning. Team Null Pointers and Team Bugs emerged as winners in the software and hardware categories, respectively.

'Experiential Week' at university

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The School of Design at Presidency University here recently hosted its 'Experiential Week', a platform for students to present their academic and creative work across disciplines.

Over 250 students from the Bachelor of Design and BSc Multimedia programmes participated in the event, which offered a curated exhibition of over 300 projects, including product prototypes, system designs, fashion collections, multimedia installations, and visual narratives.

Bank employee arrested for stealing colleague's valuables from locker

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basaveshwaranagar police have arrested a cashier of a bank for theft and recovered ₹16 lakh worth of 170 grams of gold jewellery which the accused had pawned with a jewellery store.

The accused, identified as Hitesh, 21, a resident of Kamalanagar, allegedly confessed to having stolen the valuables from the manager's locker using the bank's set of keys.

According to the police, the manager of the bank lodged a complaint in January that valuables he had kept in a locker at the branch he was heading had gone missing.

In his complaint, the victim said that he had kept around 250 grams of gold jewellery, mark cards, and other important documents in the locker he had availed at the branch he headed. He said that while everything was intact in May 2024, he found the gold jewellery missing from the locker when he checked again on December 30, 2024.

In his complaint, he raised suspicions about the involvement of one of his colleagues at the branch, as the locker facility was access controlled and outsiders cannot enter the same easily.

Valuables recovered

In another case, the Cubbon Park police have arrested a 45-year-old man and recovered valuables, including a luxury watch, two diamond rings worth ₹14 lakh, and a bag worth ₹75,000, from him.

The accused, identified as Mohammed Mastan, hailing from Tamil Nadu and a resident of Mahalakshmi Layout, was working as a cab driver. According to the police, an actor and dancer, a resident of Koramangala, went to Cubbon Park for a morning walk on May 11, when the accused stole ₹22.5 lakh worth of valuables from the car's boot. The accused was waiting to pick up a ride on Queen's Road when the victim parked her car in front of him. He reportedly saw her keep a bag in the boot and leave without locking. After she left, the accused allegedly opened the boot and took away her valuables. Based on CCTV camera footage and other technical evidence, the police tracked down the accused.

Corrigendum

In the report '2.5 lakh girls to get Azim Premji Foundation scholarship' carried in these columns in the edition dated May 16, it was reported that "the scholarship programme is a ₹250 crore commitment across three years by the foundation," while it should have been "the scholarship programme is a ₹2,250 crore commitment across three years by the foundation."

Nigerian held, ₹4 crore worth of MDMA seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sleuths from the Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a Nigerian national and recovered ₹4 crore worth 2.585 kgs of MDMA crystals from Soladevanahalli.

Acting on a tip-off that two African nationals living in a rented accommodation at Soladevanahalli are stocking up and peddling narcotics, CCB raided the house on May 14. While Daniel Orange Okwosha, 40, hailing from Nigeria was arrested, the other suspect fled from the scene.

The police said they had recovered 1.485 kg of white MDMA crystals and 1.1 kg of brown MDMA crystals, a mobile phone, a bike and other valuables.

The police said that while efforts were on to track down the other African national, the investigation was on to identify the source of the narcotics and the money for the accused to buy such a large quantity of narcotics. The police said the duo had a wide clientele.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAY. 17		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	22:48	SET 09:26
SUNDAY, MAY. 18		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:39
RISE	23:36	SET 10:21
MONDAY, MAY. 19		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:39
RISE	00:00	SET 11:17

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	24
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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State seeks electric buses under PM E-Drive; Union Minister promises support

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has formally requested the allocation of electric buses under the PM E-Drive initiative, a Centrally sponsored scheme aimed at promoting clean and sustainable urban transport.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy submitted the proposal to the Ministry of Heavy Industries, citing the growing need to strengthen public transport in major cities across the state.

A statement by Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy stated that he has assured the State of full support from the Centre. "Karnataka will definitely receive buses under PM E-Drive," he said, following internal discussions within the Ministry.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy called on Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy in New Delhi on Friday.

He confirmed that the allocation process is already under way and buses will be provided in a phased manner, based on priority.

The PM E-Drive scheme aims to deploy 14,028 electric buses across nine major Indian cities.

The project has a budget outlay of ₹10,900 crore and is scheduled to be implemented between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2026.

Nine cities

"As many as 14,000 electric buses are to be allocated to nine major cities under the PM E-Drive initiative. Discussions between the Union and State governments have also covered associated infrastructure, including charging stations, bus depots, and vehicle maintenance systems. Officials from both sides explored implementation models to ensure rapid roll-out across identified urban clusters," the statement stated.

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I, VINEETKUMAR Shreebhagwan Tiwari NO.939/52/3 Haralakunt, A005-Ishaa Lake Front 24th Main Rd, ITI Layout, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102 have changed my name from Vineet Shreebhagwan Tiwari to Vineetkumar Shreebhagwan Tiwari vide affidavit dt 15.05.2025 before Notary M.Rajendra, Bengaluru-560073
I, A. BABU also known as Babu.A, Son of R. Ahmed Basha residing at No.1748, 4th C Cross, 9th Main, HAL 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560075 have changed my name to Ahmed Babu vide affidavit dated 16/05/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.
I, MOHAMMAD Jasimuddin Son of Mohammad Fakhruddin residing at No.28, 3rd Floor, 7th Street, 19th Cross, Chandini Chowk Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051 have changed my name to Mohammed Jasimuddin vide affidavit dated 16/05/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.
I, BUSHRA Kouser wife of Syed Maaz Ahmed residing at No. 17/8, 10th Cross, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-560052 have changed my name to Bushra Kausar vide affidavit dated 16/05/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

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United India Insurance Co Ltd., Petitioner / 2nd Respondent
/Versus/
Neethusingh and another Respondent /Petitioners
Daleel Kaleem Ahmed
S/o. Anwer Baig, Old No.9, New. Kousar Nagar, Dinnur Main Road, No.5, Ist Main Road,R,T, Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka State- 560032 Proposed Party - 2
NOTICE TO THE PROPOSED PARTY -2
Please take Notice that the Petitioner / 2nd Respondent has filed a petition to implead you/ The proposed party-2, As a Respondent in the above mentioned case. This Notice is issued to you as per the order of the Hon'ble Special District Judge Court. You are hereby required to appear before the special District Judge Court (MACT), Dharmapuri, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu on 04-06-2025 at 10.00 am either in person or through Advocate and file your objections if any otherwise an exparte order will be passed against you.
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RITU RAJ KONWAR

After becoming India's fastest 800m runner ever, Afsal sets his sights even higher

The 29-year-old overcame his disappointment of not making the cut for the Asian Championships by breaking the National record. He has ambitions of qualifying for September's World Championships and piecing together a historic sub-1:45 run in the near future

> [India's 800m athletes] may not go below 1:45, they will probably do 1:45-dead this year. It depends on the competition. Probably, they will be running 1:44 by the time of the next Olympics
>
> **SRIRAM SINGH**
> Two-time Asian Games 800m champion

Stan Rayan

Mohammed Afsal had a small smile on his lips as he topped the 800m heats at the recent National Federation Athletics Championships in Kochi.

His time, 1:46.70s, was more than a second faster than the Athletics Federation of India's qualification standard (1:47.77) for this month-end's Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea.

Afsal, the Asian Games silver medallist, was looking to seal his place in the Indian team with another fine run in the final. He felt in fantastic shape.

Strange world

But middle-distance running is a strange world. And shocking things can happen, especially if it's a slow race. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, for instance, American Matthew Centrowitz won the 1500m in 3:50.00s, the slowest winning time in an Olympics in more than 80 years!

Afsal experienced the peculiarities of middle-distance running in the final, finishing a surprising fourth.

"The final was a slow race. I couldn't judge or predict what was going to happen," he said. "There were some judgement errors from my side and when I went into an outer lane, they took the lead and I couldn't do anything."

From the previous day's high, suddenly he hit a low. Afsal, the country's fastest two-lapper this year, was not picked in the Indian team because he did not finish in the top two.

The 29-year-old was shattered. Missing the Asian Championships means he has to work harder to get onto the Road to Tokyo 2025, the World Athletics rankings system that will help athletes who missed the automatic qualification standard (1:44.50s) make it to September's World Championships.

A couple of weeks later, a wonderful opportunity presented itself: the UAE Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour event.

> In the 800m, you cannot just go and get better at a stretch. You need a good race, good climate, good athletes, so you can't plan anything. I ran 1:45 because I got a good race
>
> **MOHAMMED AFSAL**

"After having trained so much, I was mentally down since I finished fourth. I felt I had to get good results this season. My coach Ajith Markose also kept pushing me," said Afsal. "In Dubai, I was determined to get the [National] record, I was confident of doing it."

And Afsal wiped away much of his disappointment as he broke Olympian Jinson Johnson's seven-year-old National record (1:45.65s), clocking 1:45.61 for silver. The race had some quality runners, including Kenya's former African Championships silver medallist Nicholas Kiplangat, who took gold, and South African Christopher Swart.

"It was a good race, the Kenyan – a 1:44 runner – took the race at a correct pace. There was a South African too who had a PB of 1:45 in altitude. I was confident that if I stuck with them I could clock a good time," said Afsal, who hails from Palakkad.

"Ajith sir told me I could do it, he had faith in me, I ran with that faith."

Ajith, who has been working on Afsal's finish and on sustaining his pace in the second lap at the Reliance Foundation Endurance Programme in Bengaluru, feels the athlete could have done better.

"We had planned a 1:45 flat, that's his year's target too. Had his race been cleaner, he could have done that. But there were hiccups here and there," said Ajith. "His finish was bad, he did not stick to the plan in the last 30m. Had he executed that, he could have come first.

"I felt he appeared a bit satisfied when he came from the back and got into medal position. He could have changed a gear, kicked a little more in the last 30m, he had the capacity for that."

The National record has given Afsal new confidence. "I want to keep bettering my time, that is my target. I need more competition experience outside the country," he said.

So how fast can he go this year?

"In the 800m, you cannot just go and get better at a stretch. You need a good race, good climate, good athletes, so you can't plan anything. I ran 1:45 because I got a good race," said Afsal, who emerged from Parli School, one of Kerala's leading athletics nurseries, where he was coached by P.G. Manoj.

"If I get good races like this, I can get even better, probably break the 1:45 barrier."

The Sriram effect

Sriram Singh, perhaps India's greatest middle-distance runner whose brave front-running pushed Cuban Alberto Juantorena to a world record in the 1976 Montreal Olympics, feels the sub-1:45 will not come in a hurry.

"They may not go below 1:45, they will probably do 1:45-dead this year. It depends on the competition. Probably, they will be running 1:44 by the time of the next Olympics," Sriram, the only Indian to run in an Olympic 800m final, told *The Hindu* from Jaipur.

Sriram, who featured in three Olympics, finished seventh in Montreal and his time, 1:45.77s (an Asian record until 1994), stood as the National record for 42 years before Johnson (1:45.65s) broke it in 2018.

Johnson, however, is positive the National record will start tumbling faster.

"I feel Indian athletes, like Afsal and Krishan Kumar [Asian Championships silver medallist], have the calibre to run 1:44 this year. If they keep doing it consistently, we can even get to 1:43-something," said the former Asian Games 1500m champion.

"And for that, we surely need more international exposure because in the 800 and 1500m everything depends on race strategy. When we go for major championships or Games, we always try to win a medal. If you are focusing on a medal, you cannot do a good time, so international exposure is important.

"Now, with corporates like Reliance and JSW coming in, athletes are getting good exposure."

Johnson knows Afsal well, having raced against him. "Afsal's reaction is fast when I compare him with myself, his speed is good," said Johnson.

Different strategies

India's best middle-distance runners often have one strategy for domestic meets and another for international competitions.

"In India, you have to do front-running to clock a fast time...no point clocking 1:48 and winning a medal. That's why good runners tend to be front-runners in India," explained Afsal. "But while leading, you can't properly judge what's happening behind your back."

When they compete abroad, Indians often play a patient waiting game, shadowing the leaders.

"But, to be honest, I still have no idea what suits me. I have won races where I have led and won after staying at the back initially too," said Afsal.

Securing automatic qualification (1:44.50s) for the Worlds could be tough, but the National record has helped Afsal climb up to No. 51 in the Road to Tokyo rankings. The Reliance athlete is now looking for quality competitions that will help him confirm his place in the final 56-man list before the qualification doors close on August 24.

"Training-wise, everything is going perfectly. We are now trying for Continental Tour events, probably in Germany or somewhere," said Afsal, whose favourite athlete is Sebastian Coe.

Coe's middle-distance duels with Steve Ovett lit up athletics, and Afsal hopes the tight 800m competition in India will lift the event's status in the country.

GAME THEORY

The queens of clay

Iga Swiatek moved up the list of the most successful women's singles champions at Roland-Garros with her fourth title last year. With the clay Major set to begin next Sunday, we take a look at the most prolific female winners at the tournament in its various avatars. From 1891 to 1924, the French Championships were open only to French nationals and French tennis club members. It became an international event in 1925 and moved to Stade Roland Garros in 1928. In 1968, it became the first Grand Slam to open its doors to non-amateur players, as the Open Era took shape

CHRIS EVERT

SUZANNE LENGLEN

STEFFI GRAF

MARGARET COURT

MOST FRENCH SINGLES TITLES (WOMEN)

Player	Titles	Editions
Chris Evert	7	1974, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986
Suzanne Lenglen	6	1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926
Steffi Graf	6	1987, 1988, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999
Adine Masson	5	1897, 1898, 1899, 1902, 1903
Margaret Court	5	1962, 1964, 1969, 1970, 1973
Kate Gillou	4	1904, 1905, 1906, 1908
Jeanne Matthey	4	1909, 1910, 1911, 1912
Helen Wills	4	1928, 1929, 1930, 1932
Justine Henin	4	2003, 2005, 2006, 2007
Iga Swiatek	4	2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
Hilde Krahwinkel Sperling	3	1935, 1936, 1937
Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	3	1989, 1994, 1998
Monica Seles	3	1990, 1991, 1992
Serena Williams	3	2002, 2013, 2015
Marguerite Broquedis	2	1913, 1914
Margaret Scriven Vivian	2	1933, 1934
Simonne Mathieu	2	1938, 1939
Margaret Osborne duPont	2	1946, 1949
Doris Hart	2	1950, 1952
Maureen Connolly	2	1953, 1954
Ann Haydon Jones	2	1961, 1966
Lesley Turner Bowrey	2	1963, 1965
Martina Navratilova	2	1982, 1984
Maria Sharapova	2	2012, 2014

SOURCE: ROLAND-GARROS

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Swiss appetiser

This photograph depicts the peloton pedalling its way through the picturesque Swiss district of Cossonay in the Tour De Romandie — a UCI World Tour stage race — earlier this month.

First held in 1947, to coincide with the 50-year anniversary of Swiss Cycling, the race derives its name from its setting: the Romandie region, the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

The Tour de Romandie is considered both preparation and appetiser for the Giro d'Italia and Tour de France.

Indeed, four winners of the Tour de Romandie have gone on to win the Tour de France in the same year: Stephen Roche (1987), Cadel Evans (2011), Bradley Wiggins (2012) and Chris Froome (2013).

Joao Almeida grabbed overall victory in this year's race after finishing second to Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel in the closing time trial in Geneva.

Evenepoel, who returned last month after an injury layoff, was testing himself in a stage race as he prepared for the Tour de France. "I still have more than two months before the Tour de France, so I have to be patient and work day by day," he said.

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Offer Price ₹1,02,800

ZOYA
~~MRP ₹1,45,100~~
Offer Price ₹72,550

YANA
~~MRP ₹1,69,800~~
Offer Price ₹84,900

NINA
~~MRP ₹1,80,900~~
Offer Price ₹90,450

CHARLOTTE
~~MRP ₹2,26,700~~
Offer Price ₹1,13,350

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Offer Price ₹1,13,800

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M BG-BGE

ISKCON-Bangalore is owner of Hare Krishna hill temple, rules SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday, in a judgment, set aside a Karnataka High Court finding that ISKCON-Mumbai was the owner of the iconic Hare Krishna Hill temple in Bengaluru.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and A.G. Masih upheld a trial court verdict that ISKCON-Bangalore was the owner of the temple and properties, thus bringing to a close a nearly 25-year-old dispute between the two religious bodies.

'Completely erroneous'

The apex court found the High Court's conclusion that ISKCON-Mumbai owned the temple through its branch in Bangalore "completely erroneous" and "contrary to the documentary evidence".

"Even assuming that ISKCON-Bangalore did not possess funds, and even if money came from ISKCON Mumbai, it cannot claim ownership. Only because the existence of the Bangalore branch of ISKCON-Mumbai was proved, one cannot jump to the conclusion that allotment of Schedule 'A' (temple) property was to ISKCON-Mumbai through the Bangalore branch," Justice Oka, who authored the judgment, concluded. Justice Oka observed that the trial court had arrived at its findings after a detailed consideration of the evidence that the scheduled properties were owned by ISKCON-Bangalore.

"The trial court also recorded a finding that no evidence was produced by ISKCON-Mumbai about its possession of the Schedule 'A' property. There is absolutely no evidence to support that claim," the apex court agreed.

ISKCON-Bangalore had moved the top court on June 2, 2011, challenging the High Court's verdict of May 23, 2011. In the plea, ISKCON-Bangalore, had contested the HC judgment that overturned the 2009 order of the trial court.

II PU exam-2: Science stream students see improvement in marks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) announced II PU exam 2 results on Friday, and the pass percentage stood at 31.27%.

In 2024, the pass percentage in exam-2 was 35.25%.

This year, a total of 1,94,077 appeared for the exams, of which 60,692 managed to clear them. Of the 71,964 registered for exam-2 to improve their scores, as many as 41,719 saw an improvement in marks. As many as 1,628 have not seen any changes in the marks scored in exam-1.

Among the students who wrote the II PU annual exam-2, a large number of students from the Science stream scored good marks in physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology subjects.

As many as 1,628 students did not seen any changes in the marks scored in exam-1.
FILE PHOTO

According to the subject-wise data, the highest registration was for physics with 46,270, of which 26,518 managed to improve their marks, followed by 45,297 in mathematics, wherein 25,477 have seen improvement. In chemistry, 44,947 appeared and 31,974 got gradual improvements. In biology, among 20,310 who appeared for the exam, a total of 9,492 students got improved scores. The number of students registered for english subjects to improve the marks was 21,724, and a total of 6,937 managed to improve their marks. "As these marks will be counted for the CET ranking. Several Science students appeared for exam-2 to get a good ranking in CET," said a senior official of the KSEAB.

In exam-2 also, girls outperformed boys (34.34%) with a 36.38% pass percentage.

The stream-wise pass percentage stood at 25.38% in Arts, 35.74.% in Commerce and 35.14% in Science.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah congratulated the students in a tweet on 'X', saying, "I congratulate the 60,692 students who passed exam-2 and 41,719 improved their marks. I also advise those who were unable to clear both the exams to not get disappointed, and register for exam-3 without paying any fees."

CBSE class 10, 12: Schools under THiS secure excellent results

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The schools under The Hindu in School (THiS) programme have achieved remarkable results in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examination.

From National Hill View Public School-Banashankari, Nice Link Road Junction, Banashankari III Stage, Damaraju Sirishma, 96.5%, is the class 10 topper. From SFS ACADEMY, Electronics City, H. Haasini is the topper of class 10 with 98.6%. From Brooklyn National Public School, Kanakapura road, Doddakalasandra, Vedanth Vishal Cholkar secured 94.2% to become the topper of class 10.

Shrilakshmi Venkatraman and Vathsalya Chakram Mukundhan, both 98.4% are the toppers of class 10 from Jaigopal Garodia Rashtrotthana Vidya Kendra. Chandanashree K.S with 97% is the class 10 topper from Jain Public School, Jakkasandra, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.

S.B. Deeksha, 98.4% is the class 10 topper of Rastrotthana Vidya kendra, Arkavathi layout, Thanisandra. Chaintanya. H., 96.40% is the class 10 topper of Vishwa Venkateshwara International School, Tirumala Garden, Kodipalya, Kengeri.

From RNS International School, Uttarhalli Kengeri Main Raod, Channasandra, RR Nagar Post, Diganth Bhagwat is the class 10 topper with 96.83%. Akhilesh Iramani, 98.4% is the class 10 topper of Dev- In National School, Sahakarnagar.

Divyaj Vinayak Gouda, 97% is the class 10 topper from Gangothri International Public school, Sunkadakatte.

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indra Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur - 302004

No.: JDA/EE-(Garden-I)/2025/D-381 Date : 14.05.2025

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: JDA/EE (Garden-I)/06/2025-56

Online Bids are invited up-to 6:00 PM of 06.06.2025 for **"Maintenance and Management of the Kishan Bagh Project (Lease/Rent Basis)"** The last date for applying bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up to 6.00 PM of 06.06.2025. The Estimated Cost of NIB Rs. 363.00 Lacs. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in/jda
UBN No.: JDA2526WSOB00159
To participate in the bid, bidder must:
A. Participate in Tender & Deposit Payment on 'Online Tender Participation' Portal of JDA at https://jda.rajasthan.gov.in/jda or by Single-Sign-On at http://service.jaipurjda.org.
B. Submit e-Bid on 'e-Procurement Portal' of GOR at www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj.Samwad/C/25/2406 **Executive Engineer (Garden-I)**

Government of Karnataka
Department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysore.
Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CW/T-4/2025-26 Date: 12.05.2025

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology. Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 08 works DAMH/2025-26:OW/WORK_INDENT-116, 126 (call-2) 130 to 135 under the standard tender documents KW-1.2.3 & 4. The Minimum amount Rs. 10.00 Lakhs to Maximum amount Rs.336.00 lakhs kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through e-portal from date 13.05.2025 onwards.

Sl.No.(2) to (8) works Last date and time of any Queries for tender	**22.05.2025, 17.00 hrs**
Sl.No.(2) to (8) works Last date and time of tender submission	**28.05.2025, 16.00 hrs**
Sl.No.(2) to (8) works Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	**30.05.2025, 16.30 hrs**
SL.No.(2) to (8)works Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	**02.06.2025, 11.00 hrs**
Sl.No. (1) work Last date and time of any Queries for tender.	**04.06.2025, 17.00 hrs**
Sl.No.(1) work Last date and time of tender submission	**16.06.2025, 16.00 hrs**
Sl.No. (1) work Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	**18.06.2025, 16.30 hrs**
Sl.No.(1) work Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	**23.06.2025, 11.00 hrs**
Sl.No.(1) work Date and Time of Pre-bid meeting	**03.06.2025, 11.00 hrs**

Sd/-Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/181/KSMCA/152/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. 04UBL-2025-26 Dt. 07.05.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

S.N	Item of work	Approx.Value
1	Hiring of Manpower for carrying out maintenance activities of newly created signalling assets for new lines over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 3,69,32,058.00

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 09.06.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/East/ Hubballi
PUB/111/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. Hiring_ISS-SBC-YPR_CCTV,Dt. 13.05.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

S.N	Item of work	Approx.Value
1	Hiring of Manpower maintenance of ISS camera at Bengaluru-Yesvantpur station and CCTV camera at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru station and other location over Bengaluru Division (One Highly skilled + four semi-skilled + Four Unskilled).	Rs. 69,43,780.80

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 12.00 hrs on 04.06.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Bengaluru
PUB/116/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Smt. Subbalakshmamma, W/o. Late. Nyana Chari and her son Sri. B. N. Jagadish Kumar are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Sri. Ananth Kumar. C. V., S/o. Sri. Venkataswamy, Residing at Chitnahalli Village, Thotli Post, Kolar Taluk & District, Karnataka- 563101.
If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing Site No. 427, E-Khata in form 9 & 11A bearing Panchayathi property No. 857/427, PID No. 150200101300400932 in Layout Known as "PRASANTHI GRAND VILLA PHASE-IV" formed in converted land bearing Sy. Nos. 106, 108, 80/1C, 80/1D, 80/1E, 80/1F, 80/1G & 80/1H, Conversion order bearing No. ALN (A) (K&A) SR. 37/07-08, C/w 38, 40, 41, 36, 39/2007-08, dated 04-09-2007 Vide approved Layout Plan No. APA/LAO/16/ 2007-08 dated 03-10-2007, situated at Soppahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Measuring East to West 40 Ft. and North to South 30 Ft. in all measuring 1200 Square Feet and bounded on: East by: 30 Feet Wide Road, West by: Site No. 372, North by: Site No. 426, South by: Site No. 428.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 16-05-2025

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-03, Date: 14.05.2025. DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms / Contractors for the following works: **Name of work with Its locality**: Utility Shifting / Infringement Removal of S&T gears in connection with fencing work on Solapur division of Central Railway. **Cost of the work**: Rs. 4,51,69,753.34. **Cost of the tender form**: NIL. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 3,75,900/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: **06.06.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.** The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum / amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Divisional Railway Manager, S&T
DE/Sur-53 Branch, Central Railway, Solapur
रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-04, Date: 14.05.2025. DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms / Contractors for the following works: **Name of work with Its locality**: Signalling work in connection with Rehabilitation of S&T equipment at Interlocked LC Gates in Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Cost of the work**: Rs. 2,22,29,955.58. **Cost of the tender form**: NIL. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 2,61,200/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: **10.06.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.** The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum / amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail,FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Divisional Railway Manager, S&T
DE/Sur-54 Branch, Central Railway, Solapur
रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com

No. KSAPS/PRC/01/2025-26 **Dated: 16.05.2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover) (Call-2) through e-Procurement

Short term tender (Two Cover) (Call-2) are invited for supply of ARV drug Abacavir 300 mg IP Tablets (Single Pill) and (Tab. Dolutegravir 50 mg.) under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender on **27/05/2025 at 5.30pm**.

Sd/- Project Director
DIPR/CP/702/Zen/2025-26 **Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru**

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dr. K.Shivarama Karantha Layout (DSKL), Division, Bangalore Development Authority #108G, 5th Cross, MLA Layout, RMV 2nd Stage Bhoopasandra, Bengaluru -560094.

No.: BDA /EE/DSKL/TEND/Lakes/58/2025-26 Date: 16-05-2025

Addendum - 01 (BDA/2025-26/0W/WORK_INDENT116) Dtd: 16-05-2025.

Sub : Addendum to Short term Tender Notification No: 16/2025-26 Dated: 22-04-2025.
Ref : **1.** This office Tender Notification No: 16/2025-26 Dated: 22-04-2025.
2. This office Corrigendum No: 48/2025-26 Dated: 07-05-2025.

Following Addendum is issued with respect to Indent mentioned below:-

Name of Work	Description	Remarks
Development of Ramagondana halli lake (BDA/2025-26/0W/WORK_INDENT 116)	**SECTION 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS (ITT), Clause 3.2 (c), h** 60mm thick factory made precast M-30 grade Cement Concrete Paver Block-4060 Sqm	ITEM IS DELETED.

Other details remain unchanged. For any other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DSKL Division, BDA, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property described in the SCHEDULE hereunder, from its owner Smt. Yeshoda G.S. W/o Late Gangappa, R/at. Ganga Nilaya, Prashanth Nagar, Devanahalli Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Any person/s/bank/society/firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary proof regarding their manner of right, title, interest or charge over the schedule mentioned property with the office of the undersigned within Five days (5 days) from date of publication of this notice, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property, on the basis that there are no objections / claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule mentioned property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the Property being converted land bearing **Sy No. 25/2 (Old Sy No- 22/2)** Measuring **2-00 Acres, 0-01 Gunta,** Situated at Guttahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,(converted vide Official Memorandum dated 04-11-2004, No. ALN (DE) SR.85/2004-05 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District) and bounded on by; **East by:** Sy No. 26/1 property belongs to K.S. Ramaswamy; **West by :** Sy No. 25/1 property belongs to Smt. Ambuja i.e. Purchaser, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Sy No. 111/2 i.e. property of Sri. Harish

Sd/- **A. V. NARASIMHA REDDY,** ADVOCATE
Office at No. 464, 20th Main, 26th Cross, Judicial Layout, G.K.V.K. Post, Yelahanaka New Town, Bangalore-560 065.
Moblie- 9480333221 / 6366168523

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICES INVITING e-AUCTION

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auctions for the following works.

SN	Name of Work
1	**E-Auction Catalogue No. PNUToiHPTMAY25 Dated: 26.05.2025** Operation and Maintenance of Pay & Use Toilet at Hosapete Station for a period of 3 years.
	E-Auction Schedule - Start: 11:00 Hrs. to Close: 11:30 Hrs. on 26.05.2025
2	**E-Auction Catalogue No. PnUGDGMAY2025 Dated: 27.05.2025** Operation and Maintenance of Pay & Use Toilet at Gadag Station for a period of 3 years.
	E-Auction Schedule - Start: 11:00 Hrs. to Close: 11:30 Hrs. on 27.05.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Hubballi
PUB/118/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Chennammanakere, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085.

No: EE/BG/e-Proc/03/2025-26 **Date: 16-05-2025**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD / CPWD or any State Government Organizations for the Works detailed below.
(Standard Tender Documents - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Lakshmipura, Ramanjaneyagudda and Jain Temple Surrounding Area in Gavigangadhareshwara Ward No. 196, Doddaganapathi Sub Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 204.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,06,000/-**
2	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Banashankari 1st Stage 2nd Block, Weavers Colony, Kalidasa Layout and Kalapp Block Surrounding Area in Srinagara Ward No. 197, Doddaganapathi Sub Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 204.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,06,000/-**
3	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Thyagarajanagara, Javaraiah Garden, Grapes Garden and N.R. Colony Surrounding Area in Doddaganapathi Ward No. 198, Doddaganapathi Sub Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 204.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,06,000/-**
4	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Vinayakanagar, Srinivasanagar Surrounding Area and Construction of Compound Wall of Kumaraswamy Temple in Vidyapeeta Ward No.199, Vidyapeeta Sub Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 204.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,06,000/-**
5	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Nagendra Block, SBM Colony, Girinagara 4th Phase and Bhyrappa Garden Surrounding Area in Swamy Vivekananda Ward No. 200, Vidyapeeta Sub Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 204.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,06,000/-**
6	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Kaverinagara, Poornaprgna Layout, Kathriguppe East Revenue Village, Srinivasanagara & Ramarao Layout Surrounding Area in Kathriguppe Ward No. 201, Vidyapeeta Sub Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 204.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,06,000/-**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21-05-2025 after 17.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **27-05-2025 at 16.30 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of Tender Documents: **06-06-2025 upto 17.30 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **09-06-2025 at 11.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Basavanagudi Division, BBMP.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dr. K.Shivarama Karantha Layout (DSKL), Division, Bangalore Development Authority #108G, 5th Cross, MLA Layout, RMV 2nd Stage Bhoopasandra, Bengaluru -560094.

No.: BDA /EE/DSKL/TEND/Lakes/59/2025-26 Date: 16-05-2025

Addendum - 02 (BDA/2025-26/0W/WORK_INDENT128) Dtd: 16-05-2025.

Sub : Addendum to Short term Tender Notification No: 16/2025-26 Dated: 22-04-2025.
Ref : **1.** This office Tender Notification No: 16/2025-26 Dated: 22-04-2025.
2. This office Corrigendum No: 48/2025-26 Dated: 07-05-2025.

Following Addendum is issued with respect to Indent mentioned below:-

Name of Work	Description	Remarks
Development of Veerasagara lake (BDA/2025-26/0W/WORK_INDENT 128)	**SECTION 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS (ITT), Clause 3.2 (d), h** h) 60mm thick factory made precast M-30 grade Cement Concrete Paver Block-4600 Sqm	ITEM IS DELETED.

Other details remain unchanged. For any other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DSKL Division, BDA, Bangalore.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-(IREPS) TENDER NOTICE NO. 05 UBL 2025-26 Date: 08.05.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders (IREPS) for the following works :

S N	Name of work	Approx. Tender value in (₹)
1	Hubballi Division: Sub Work-I) Vyasa Colony -Kotturu (VC-KTY) Section: Provision of W beam crash barrier for a length of 5.3 Km. Sub Work-II) Bannikoppa- Bhanapur (BNA-BNP) Section: Provision of W beam crash barrier for a length of 5.3 Km.	4,71,83,208.00
2	Hubballi Division: Proposed Construction of Gang tool cum rest room at Halligudi, Sompur road, Bayalu voddigeri, Torangallu and Daroji.	81,24,747.00
3	Hubballi Division: Cess work side drain, pre-cast drain and retaining wall cum drain in new Doubling Line of Saunshi-Hubballi South deficiencies work.	4,75,50,917.00
4	Hubballi Division: Proposed Improvements to underground drainage for staff quatters at Gadag, Koppal and Kotturu.	72,87,105.00
5	Hubballi Division: Supply of water Can to Level Crossing gates and gang units under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Gadag Jurisdiction (Total 25 gang units and 63 gates) for a period of 02 Years.	15,15,800.00
6	Hubballi Division: Sub Work-I: Supplying & stacking of bouldersand sand, loading into Railway wagons (BCN/BOXN) & unloading from Railway wagons (BCN/BOXN) at Tinaighat-Kulem (TGT-QLM) Station to be kept as monsoon reserve for a period of 2 years (2025-26 & 2026-27)	1,02,57,955.00
7	Hubballi Division: Sub Work-I: Miscellaneous repairs works at Running room. Hubballi. Sub Work-II: Provision of Safety gates to Main doors and Mosquito mesh for Doors and windows for staff quarters Under JE/SW-II/UBL Under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Head Quarters/Hubballi Jurisdiction. Sub Work-III: Hubballi-Loda (UBL-LD): Improvements to Approach Road forRoad Under Bridge 207A at Km 502/700 between Mugad-Kambarganvi (MGD-KBI) Stations.	2,56,09,788.00
8	Hubballi Division: Sub Work-I-Devarayi- Londa (DEV-LD): Conversion of SWP to LWR for length of 4.881km. Sub Work-II Alnawar-Devarayi (LWR-DEV) : Conversion of SWP to Alnawar (LWR) for length of 7.176 km. Sub Work-III- Provision of trolley refuges and providing various indication boards in Londa- Miraj section under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Belagavi	2,55,92,533.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 09.06.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination Hubballi
PUB/112/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance)
BANGALORE 560029 (ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT) Ph:080-26995215

Ref. No: NIMH/ENG/HOES/ 215 /2025-26 **Date: 16/05/2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement)

Tenders on an item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore for the following works (indents) on the e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the eligible contractors from KPWD/CPWD/CEIG with e-procurement Registration of Government of Karnataka e-portal only and last date for uploading tender is on 26/05/2025 up to 4.00 pm. **Note: GST will be paid separately on tendered / bill amount.**

SL No	Indent No.
1	NIMHANS/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT27
2	NIMHANS/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT28
3	NIMHANS/2024-25/SE0002

For information, Please visit NIMHANS website: www.nimhans.ac.in and on e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

***Sd/-*, Head of Engg Section**
NIMHANS, Bangalore

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001

OA No.837/2022

BETWEEN:
Indian Bank, Sadashiv Nagar Branch, Bangalore **..Applicant**
AND
M/s Water Mark Creations Rep by its Proprietor **..Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED TO THE DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

1.M/s WATER MARK CREATIONS, Rep. by its Proprietor **Sri Deepak C.K,** Having Business at No.612/8, Ground Floor, 8th Block, Opp Police Station, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 095.
2.Sri DEEPAK C.K, At No.61, 3rd Floor, RAFSA Mansion, Church Street, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 095. PAN: AMBPK6302N
3.Mrs VANI ASHOK KUMAR, At No.5/14, Hosur Main Road, Opp Lakkasandra Bus Stop, Bangalore-560 030.

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 (copy enclosed) against you for recovery of Rs.23,10.892/-, together with current and future interest and other relief/s.

The above mentioned Defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate, in support of his defense to show cause on 17/07/2025 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in the event of the default, this Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hands and seal of this Tribunal on this the **17th day of April, 2025**

By Order of the Tribunal
Registrar,
The Debt Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
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INNOCEAN-032/25

Decks will be cleared for polls to GBA in four months: DKS

Deputy Chief Minister says there is no point in delaying elections

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the Karnataka government will make all arrangements for holding polls to the newly created Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in four months.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also Minister incharge of Bengaluru Development, said the government will soon take up the issues of "reservation" and "division" of the authority.

"Elections have to be conducted. There is no point in delaying them. Within four months, all the arrangements will be made for conducting the elections," he said.

D.K. Shivakumar

All-party meeting soon

Soon, an all-party meeting will be called and suggestions from leaders of different political parties will be sought on various issues, including division of the authority.

He said members of the Opposition had cooperated with the ruling party in the legislature and even gave their suggestions on the Greater Bengaluru Authority Bill. A Cabinet sub-committee had also been formed and most of the suggestions given by the Opposition leaders had been accommodated.

"We will take everyone into confidence," Mr Shivakumar said before replying in the affirmative when reporters asked him if elections to the GBA will be conducted this year. "We have taken a decision to conduct the elections early," he said.

Though new areas had to be included into the GBA, the government had not taken up the issue to avoid delays arising out of seeking permission of the other local bodies like municipalities and panchayats.

"We can add the new areas later," he said, adding that a notification on creation of GBA has been issued on the basis of existing areas.

Criticism from BJP

With regard to the critical remarks made by Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on the creation of GBA, Mr. Shivakumar said the Opposition leaders could have raised their objections earlier. He said the Opposition leaders had given suggestions when the matter was discussed in the legislature.

Pointing out that the Opposition leaders were speaking against GBA because they were in the Opposition, Mr. Shivakumar said Mr. Ashok was an important leader of Bengaluru and the government will respect his views.

Renaming Ramanagara

On the issue of renaming of Ramanagara district, Mr. Shivakumar said there has been no delay in the process.

"All the procedures were going on and an announcement in the regard will be made at an auspicious moment," he said, while adding that the renaming process will be carried out under law.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar reiterated the Congress' demand for a special session of Parliament to discuss the conflict with Pakistan and the ceasefire between the two nations.

He claimed that other countries were interfering in the affairs of India and the country had never tolerated such interference since the time of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. So, a special session of Parliament should be conducted to discuss the matter, he said.

BIAL partners with KPMG to develop GenAI platform

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This partnership aims to redefine airport operations, enhance efficiency, and establish new global benchmarks in aviation, says BIAL

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, has tied up with KPMG in India to harness the transformative capabilities of Generative AI (GenAI).

BIAL said that this partnership aims to redefine airport operations, enhance efficiency, and establish new global benchmarks in aviation by leveraging pioneering GenAI models within a flexible and adaptable architecture. The partnership aims to deliver a cutting-edge GenAI platform, specifically tailored to BIAL's operational ecosystem. This platform may be a paradigm shift within the aviation industry, offering transformative capabilities that are expected to redefine airport operations while significantly enhancing customer experience.

By processing and analysing vast datasets in real time, powered by a highly flexible and efficient technology stack, the platform aims at enabling smarter decision-making that generates predictive insights that could aid in the delivery of adaptive solutions that evolve with operational demands. Its ability to recognise patterns and forecast trends could empower airports to proactively anticipate and mitigate disruptions, helping ensure smoother operations and greater resilience. The platform would help to drive operational excellence, augment decision intelligence, elevate the passenger experience, and unlock data-led efficiency by automating routine tasks, surfacing insights, and providing real-time AI-driven support across airport functions.

The advanced and state-of-the-art platform will look at incorporating stringent data privacy measures, adherence to responsible AI principles, robust cybersecurity protocols, and scalability across various domains in an airport ecosystem, which will help to maintain the different facets of airport operations and maximise the impact with a high level of consistency across the board.

"At BIAL, we are committed to driving innovation at every level, and our association with KPMG in India is a significant step in unlocking the immense potential of GenAI at Kempegowda International Airport. GenAI's capabilities, like real-time decision-making, predictive analytics, and adaptive intelligence, enhance our operations, leading to greater efficiency and sustainability," George Fanthome, chief digital and information officer, BIAL said.

BIAL transitions ground handling operations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

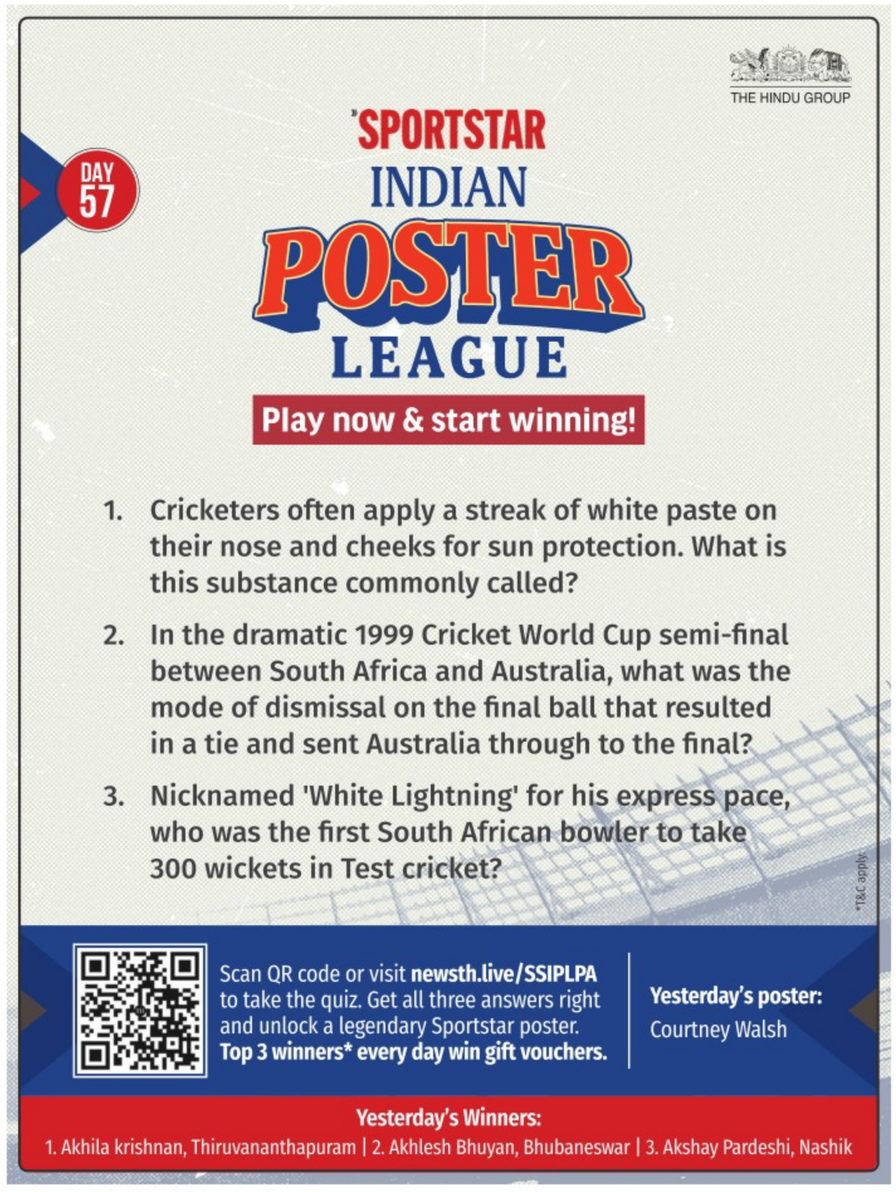
In the wake of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoking the security clearance for Turkish ground handling service provider Çelebi with immediate effect on the ground of national security, Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has said that it has transitioned its ground handling operations from the Turkish firm to other existing service providers.

"In compliance with a directive from the BCAS, Government of India, BIAL has transitioned its ground handling operations from Çelebi Airport Services India Private Limited to other existing service providers to ensure continuity and operational stability," BIAL stated on May 16.

The company added that it is coordinating the transition in collaboration with all existing aviation stakeholders and government authorities.

Late on May 15, a BIAL spokesperson said that the operator is working closely with existing ground handling service providers to ensure continuity and operational stability.

"The airport assures that all necessary measures are being taken to uphold service and operational efficiency during this period," a BIAL spokesperson said.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From Page One

Butterfly migration this year takes flight earlier than expected

"Migration is entirely dependent on the monsoon and temperature. When the heat is too much, they try to escape it. Last year, as the summer was very harsh, we did not see many swarms. This year, as the rain is setting in May, the sightings are more," said a senior official from the Forest Department.

The Common Crow, Double-Branded Crow, Blue Tiger, and Dark Blue Tiger are some of the commonly sighted butterfly species during this season along with Plain Tiger, Tawnyu Coster and Stripped Tiger insects. The members of Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT) shared that the migrating butterflies passed through the Puttenahalli Puttakere, in JP Nagar 7th Phase, while urging people to visit the lake to witness it. Nagesh Ramamurthy, another member of BBW, noted that the migration groups include three to four generations of butterflies.

"The lifespan of a butterfly is usually between three weeks and 45 days. Along their journey, they mate near lakes during the evenings, lay their eggs and carry on with their journey," he said.

. "We cannot exactly determine if the number of butterflies migrating this year is more or less. This year, it is a case of more citizens observing them, aided by social media to spread the word," said Chandu Bandi, who leads the Bangalore Butterfly Club, which conducts weekly walks and discusses the migration of butterflies.

"Fewer studies are determining the population of migrating butterflies, except for a few enthusiastic researchers trying to do a citizen science exercise using a group that captures the migration observation log. A more regular monitoring exercise requires planning, and a dedicated pool of volunteers who could help understand the trends over a long term," he added.

NMC serves show-cause notices on all 22 govt. medical colleges

"Most of the colleges have already replied to the NMC's show-cause notices with appropriate documents. The NMC is yet to reply regarding the enhancement of seats. However, I have made it clear that these show-cause notices will not make any impact on the enhancement of medical seats. If the replies given by the colleges to the notices are not satisfactory, the NMC can impose a penalty," said Dr. Rathod.

In 2024-25, the NMC had imposed a penalty of around ₹2 lakh to ₹15 lakh on 16 government medical colleges.

Speaking to *The Hindu,* Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education, said, "All government medical colleges in the State have good infrastructure and good equipment. However, there is a shortage of faculty members in medical colleges that have been started recently. Earlier, appointments were made in all colleges as per the rules of the NMC Act, 2020. However, the problem is that the NMC has directed that appointments be made as per the 2023 Act."

He said that a proposal has already been submitted to the government for recruitment of faculty members in medical colleges, and the Finance Department has to give its approval.

Deadline for survey extended till May 25

This was announced in Bengaluru by retired High Court judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, who heads the commission set up to decide on internal reservation for the Scheduled Castes.

According to Mr. Nagamohan Das, some 19.55 lakh households of about a projected 25.72 lakh SC households in Karnataka, have been covered in the survey. Around 78 lakh people out of the projected 1.17 crore population has been covered.

Data received

The commission, which will recommend internal reservation matrix based on socio, economic and educational backwardness indicators of 101 castes, has already received data to analyse representation in public employment from 40 out of 43 departments in Karnataka.

Mr. Nagamohan Das said all State-run universities had provided reservation benefits utilised by castes.

"To study political representation, we have received data from panchayat-level to Parliament from Election Commission of India, State Election Commission, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department," he said.

Commemorative stamp on Kodaikanal Solar Observatory released at IIA

Established on 1 April 1899, the observatory has been a cradle of research in solar astrophysics ever since

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A postal stamp was released on Friday at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) by the Department of Posts to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.

Established on 1 April 1899, the Observatory has been a cradle of research in solar astrophysics ever since, with a number of path breaking discoveries to its credit.

The quasquicentennial was celebrated for a year, starting from April 1, 2024, and it is a fitting tribute to this scientific institution that a stamp has been issued in its honour. The stamp commemorating this history and legacy of the Observatory was issued by A.S. Kiran Kumar, former ISRO Chairman and current chairperson of the Governing Council of IIA, and S. Rajendra Kumar, Chief Post Master General, Karnataka Circle.

A.S. Kiran Kumar, former ISRO chairman and current chairperson of the Governing Council of IIA, and S. Rajendra Kumar, Chief Post Master General, Karnataka Circle, issuing a commemorative stamp of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in Bengaluru on Friday.

IIA said that the stamp prominently features the iconic historic building of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory, which has two domes. The dome on the right hosts the 6-inch telescope which was installed at the Madras Observatory as early as 1850, remodelled in 1898, and installed at Kodaikanal in 1900 by the then Director, Michie Smith.

The quasquicentennial was celebrated for a year, starting from April 1, 2024, and it is a fitting tribute to this scientific institution that a stamp has been issued in its honour

The dome on the left hosts the 8-inch telescope that was installed at the Madras Observatory in 1866, and brought to Kodaikanal in 1930. This telescope is now used for public outreach for visitors.

"The stamp also features an H-alpha image of the Sun taken at the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory on 6 May 2024, as well as the IIA logo. In addition, a colourful inset in the stamp is the famous 'Butterfly Diagram', which is a plot of the solar latitude of sunspots versus year. This plot was generated using data taken from the Observatory between 1904 and 2020," IIA said.

The stamp will soon be available for purchase by stamp collector enthusiasts at the various Philately Bureaus across Karnataka.

Burglaries: Two from Mumbai arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Probing a burglary in a flat in Yelahanka, the Bengaluru city police have uncovered a Mumbai-based gang carrying out house burglaries in multiple cities across the country.

Venu Prasad, a resident of of an apartment in Yelahanka, alleged that on February 6, when he returned from a short trip outside Bengaluru, he saw the main door of his flat broken open and around 250 grams of gold jewellery missing from the wardrobe.Based on CCTV footage and other technical evidence, the police zeroed in on James, 39, an auto driver and Salauddin Sheikh, 29, both from Oshiwara, Mumbai.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our Client intends to transact with the lands totally admeasuring **84.46 acres** in the corresponding survey numbers at **Samanapalli (42.86 acres) and Thyagarasanapalli (41.60 acres) Villages, Shoolagiri Taluk, Krishnagiri District,** hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property" from its present owners as mentioned hereinafter followed by survey numbers. and area in acres in bracket viz., **I. Samanapalli village** – 1. M/s. Ecovast Space Realty Private Limited (S.Nos.74/1A – 0.79 acres, 74/3B – 2.67 acres, 78/2D – 6.97 acres, 79/3A – 3.075 acres, 80/1 – 11.59 acres, 85/3B2 - 0.22 acres & 85/7 (85/3B1 part as per document) - 0.625 acres); 2. M/s. Sambhav Homes and Infrastructure India Private Limited (S.Nos.74/2B – 0.02 acres, 78/1 – 1.17 acres, 78/2A – 7.43 acres, 78/2B – 4.05 acres, 78/2C – 3.06 acres, 79/3B – 0.89 acres, 85/5 – 0.30 acres); **II.Thyagarasanapalli** Village – 1. M/s.Sambhav Homes and Infrastructure India Private Limited and M/s. Ecovast Space Realty Private Limited (S.No. 141/1 - 3.30 acres); 2. Mr. Shivananda (S.No.94/3C2 - 0.80 acres); 3. Mr.Senthil Kaliyatha Muthaliyar (S.No.141/2 - 0.33 acres); 4. M/s.Ecovast Space Realty Private Limited (S.Nos.94/2 – 0.62 acres, 94/3A - 0.27 acres, 94/3B - 0.05 acres, 94/3C1 - 0.335 acres, 94/3D1 – 3.25 acres, 94/3D2 - 2.52 acres, 142/1 – 3.98 acres, 147/3 (147/1A1 part as per document) – 4.43 acres, 248/1B – 1.21 acres, 248/3B – 1.63 acres, 317/2 – 3.68 acres, 319/3A – 3.23 acres, 319/4 – 1.54 acres, 319/5 – 2.40 acres, 319/6 – 0.22 acres); 5. M/s.Sambhav Homes and Infrastructure India Private Limited (S.Nos.144/1B1B1A – 0.25 acres, 146/1A1 – 0.865 acres, 146/2 – 0.92 acres, 146/3A – 1.36 acres, 248/1A – 0.70 acres, 248/3A – 0.79 acres, 254/2 – 1.21 acres, 254/4C2 -0.165 acres, 318/1B – 0.145 acres & 319/3B – 1.40 acres).

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For and on behalf of our clients
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NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL **www.bcclweb.in,** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in.**

*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

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Health Dept. identifies 'critical vacancies' to fill on priority

Rural posting made compulsory for all; draft rules for bringing transparency in transfers through counselling notified

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amending the existing rules, the State Health Department has notified draft rules for bringing transparency in transfers through counselling and filling crucial posts on priority.

Defining "critical vacancies" in the department, the draft rules titled 'Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Medical Officers and Other Staff) Rules, 2025', notified on May 14, are aimed at filling these critical vacancies on priority.

Vacancies in any cadre where more than 50% of the sanctioned posts are vacant in any government hospital other than a primary health centre (PHC) or sub-centre are critical vacancies. Absence of any one of the specialists among the team of three specialists – obstetrics and gynaecology (OBG), paediatrician and anaesthetist – who are very much essential for providing proper care to mother and child health in a government hospital have also been categorised as critical vacancies, according to the draft rules.

The amended draft rules will apply to all doctors, medical officers, and other staff of the Health Department, Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, has said. FILE PHOTO

Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), told *The Hindu* on Friday that the amended draft rules would apply to all doctors, medical officers and other staff of the Health Department. "Although rules existed for transfers through counselling, there was no clarity. We have been trying to ensure an equitable distribution of our staff in urban and rural areas for years, but have not been able to do so. Apart from equitable distribution, we plan to fill critical vacancies on priority. This will also ensure the staff, including doctors, do not have to run around for their transfers, giving them a fair chance of a choice to choose," Mr. Gupta said.

According to the draft rules, it will be compulsory for all medical officers and other staff to serve in rural areas as specified in the relevant rules of recruitment. "A medical officer or other staffer, who has not served in rural areas for the specified minimum period under the relevant rules of recruitment and who has not attained the age of 50, should be transferred and posted to work in a rural area," Mr. Gupta said. Pointing out that such employees would be identified, the Principal Secretary said they would be withdrawn from their current post and transferred through the process of counselling in order of priority to work in a rural area.

Specialists and senior specialists, who are working in posts that are not identified by the State government for the particular specialised qualification possessed by them, will be withdrawn from that post and transferred through the process of counselling and posted in areas where their speciality is required, he said.

HC terms as illegal 'novel' idea adopted by police to avoid taking nod to probe graft case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has termed as illegal a "novel" idea adopted by the police in not invoking any provision of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act to avoid taking prior permission to investigate an alleged misappropriation case against the then chairman of D. Devaraj Urs Truck Terminals Ltd., but adding an offence under the Act in the chargesheet by obtaining only prior sanction for prosecution after completion of the investigation.

"No camouflage proceedings can be permitted to get over the rigour of Section 17A of the PC Act," which makes it mandatory for the police to take prior permission from the competent authority to conduct any investigation or inquiry against a public servant, the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while quashing the criminal case registered against D.S. Veeraiah, the then chairman of the DDUTTL and former MLC., while allowing his petition.

What FIR said

The police had registered the first information report (FIR) against "unknown persons" by invoking only Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant), 420 (cheating), 405 (criminal breach of trust) and related offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on September 23, 2023, on a complaint lodged by the incumbent MD, who had alleged that ₹47.1 crore of the public sector company was misappropriated.

The court pointed out that the police came up with a "novel" idea of registering the FIR against "unknown persons" while they were fully aware of the fact of the matter and who were responsible for the alleged misappropriation as the complaint specifically refers to acts of Mr. Veeraiah and the then MD S. Shankarappa, by quoting the decisions taken by them in the board meeting of the DDUTTL to award contracts in piece works to repair the truck terminals.

"This [registering FIR against unknown person] is the deliberate act on the part of the police/prosecution to get away with the rigour of Section 17A of the PC Act," the court said while also pointing out that no provision of the Act was mentioned in the FIR, which contains only offences under the IPC.

Twin reflections

However, the court ruled that "Section 409 of the IPC and Section 13(1)(a) of the PC Act are twin reflections of the same essence – criminal misappropriation by a public servant. Thus, the soul of Section 405 and Section 13 are the same."

Also, the court noted that the police, during the investigation, sought permission under Section 17A of the PC Act to conduct the investigation, and the permission was granted only in respect of the former MD and not against the petitioner.

Interestingly, the police initially filed the chargesheet against the former MD under the provisions of both the IPC and the PC Act, but the chargesheet was filed against the petitioner only for the offences under the IPC. Later, the court pointed out, the police secured sanction for the petitioner's prosecution under Section 19 of the PC Act and then filed the chargesheet even under Section 13 of the PC Act even though they had not secured permission under Section 17A to investigate the offence under the PC Act. "Therefore, the police had devised a method of projecting only offences under Section 409 and 420 of the IPC, which are clearly identical to Section 13 of the PC Act, to get away with the rigour of prior approval under Section 17A of the PC Act," the court said while declaring the entire procedure adopted by the police as illegal for not obtaining prior permission for the probe under Section 17A of PC Act.

Quota survey: Bengaluru poses challenges of access

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The enumerators who are going around the State to ascertain identities and population of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) for the purpose of internal reservation are facing the challenge of access in Bengaluru city limits, creating a lag in the entire process.

While about 73% coverage has been recorded across the State, in Bengaluru city limits, it has been about 33% of the population. "We have asked the authorities to deploy more enumerators in places where SC population is dense, besides asking civic authorities to provide larger areas to enumerators where SC population is spread," said retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, who heads the commission on internal reservation, addressing the press on Friday.

Since getting more government school teachers is becoming a challenge, the commission had proposed roping in private school teachers too.

Retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, who heads the commission on internal reservation, with H. Kantharaj, former chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, at a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Warning those obstructing the survey work, Mr. Das said, "It has come to our knowledge that certain apartment complexes have not allowed enumerators inside their premises, which amounts to obstructing a public servant from discharging their duty. We have warned such RWAs of serious action. Why should we not cut off water and power connection to them for obstructing government work?"

Four recommendations

At least four castes – Mansa in Dakshina Kannada district, Madiga Dasri in Raichur district, Kambatti, and Mera – are likely to be recommended for inclusion in the list of SCs.

"Though they have Adi Dravida (AD) or Adi Karnataka (AK) or Adi Andhra (AA) certificates, their castes are not part of the list. We are likely to recommend to the government to include them in the scheduled list," Mr. Das said.

Mr. Das said that enumerators on the ground were encountering challenges such as people with AK, AD, or AA certificates not knowing name of their original caste.

Centre seeks info on app

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government, which has announced a general Census in 2026, has evinced interest in the app and enumeration work being conducted as part of the Scheduled Caste survey in Karnataka.

Addressing the press on Friday, retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, who heads the commission on internal reservation, said, "Subject to verification, this could be the first such experiment in the country. The Centre has sought information on the way the app was developed by the E-governance Department, and conduct of the survey itself. We have replied to them."

E-governance Department director R. Yathish said every person interviewed by the enumerator is mapped through either Aadhaar, BPL card or caste certificate, and answers could be cross-verified on the Seva Sindhu portal. "More than 90% will be verifiable data, which brings accuracy to the survey," he said, adding that data is being collected both in online and offline mode on the app.

Don't entertain recommendations for transfers, Minister tells officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move to eliminate recommendation-based transfers, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil has announced that all general transfers in the Skill Development Department will henceforth be carried out through a counselling process.

During a departmental review meeting on Thursday, Dr. Patil instructed Skill Development Department Secretary Ekroop Caur to draft comprehensive guidelines for the new system, with a particular focus on the Department of Employment and Training , which has one of the largest employee bases under the Ministry. He reminded that the State government has set June 16 as the deadline for general transfers. Dr. Patil criticised senior officials in the department for failing to effectively implement government programmes. He directed the Secretary to issue show-cause notices and transfer the officials concerned without delay.

GO on increasing honorarium of ASHAs by ₹1,000 issued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's announcement in this year's Budget, the State government on Thursday issued a Government Order on the release of funds for increasing the honorarium paid to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) by ₹1,000.

Of the 42,524 sanctioned posts of ASHAs under the National Health Mission, 41,000 are currently working. Of these, under team-based incentives, as many as 25,996 ASHAs have already been getting an additional honorarium. The GO issued on Thursday has enabled the release of additional funds for the payment of additional ₹1,000 to the remaining 15,004 ASHAs.

Welcoming the government's move, All-India United Trade Union Centre State secretary D. Nagalakshmi said the ASHAs are eagerly waiting for a GO on the promised overall honorarium of ₹10,000.

Kolar MLA casts doubt over Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the BJP and the Congress are involved in a political slugfest over the outcome of India's Operation Sindoor, Congress MLA for Kolar Kothur Manjunath has raised doubts over the military action, saying it failed to provide justice to the families of Pahalgam terror attack victims.

"Just to show off, they sent three-four flights and returned. Will that compensate for the lives of people killed in Pahalgam? Is this how we compensate the women who lost their husbands? Is this how we console them? Is this how we show respect?" Mr. Manjunath told reporters.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok hit out at the MLA and said on X, "After CM @siddaramaiah became an overnight star in Pakistan media for his "no war needed" remarks, it looks like another @INCKarnataka leader is eager to become a star in Pakistan media. Such a shame that Karnataka Congress MLA raises doubts on #OperationSindoor."

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ಕ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	31–05–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
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ಬ)	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	03–06–2025. ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

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ED whisks away Tasmac MD, raids businessmen in 'liquor scam' case

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Swift action: Tasmac MD S. Visakan being taken for inquiry from his residence in Chennai on Friday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officers of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Friday whisked away Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) Managing Director S. Visakan to one of its offices in Chennai for recording his statement in connection with an alleged ₹1,000-crore liquor 'scam'. He was taken away after the agency conducted searches at his residence as well as on the premises of other top officials and businessmen. After several hours, the agency allowed him to go. However, the searches continued late at night.

Official sources said ED teams started the searches in the early hours at an upscale apartment in MRC Nagar. While the businessman was not at home, they continued the searches and made inquiries about the ownership of the other flats in the complex. The ED officers, who are usually accompanied by either the Central police forces or the State police, decided to go it alone in this operation. There is no information yet on the basis of the searches targeting the businessmen considered close to political power centres in the money laundering case.

The ED examined Mr. Visakan and others after the Madras High Court allowed its investigation, dismissing the Tamil Nadu government's petitions challenging the searches conducted earlier.

esides launching investigation against those involved in the money trail, the investigators were probing the assets acquired by them in India and abroad in recent times, the sources said. Senior ED officials parried questions on the seizure made so far, saying the searches were still on.

While the case of money laundering is based on about 40 FIRs registered by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, there is also information that the State's anti-corruption agency has filed closure reports in many of the cases recommending departmental action against TASMAC employees since there was no material to prosecute them further, the sources said.

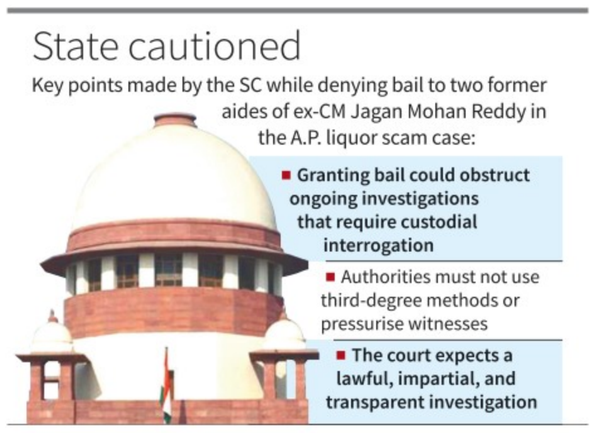
SC denies anticipatory bail to A.P. liquor scam accused

Charge of political bias against a ruling regime alone cannot help secure anticipatory bail, says Bench to accused in the multi-crore scam case; it warns State against adopting coercive action

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court clarified that an accusation of political bias alone against a ruling regime cannot secure anticipatory bail and denied protection from arrest to two accused in the multi-crore Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case on Friday.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan observed that grant of anticipatory bail to K. Dhananjaya Reddy and P. Krishna Mohan Reddy, who had served in former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan-mohan Reddy's office, would "come in the way of the investigating agency if it wanted their custodial interrogation".


State cautioned
Key points made by the SC while denying bail to two former aides of ex-CM Jagan Mohan Reddy in the A.P. liquor scam case:
Granting bail could obstruct ongoing investigations that require custodial interrogation
Authorities must not use third-degree methods or pressurise witnesses
The court expects a lawful, impartial, and transparent investigation

The accused had argued that their case was actuated by political malice and bias on the part of the current regime in the State.

"To some extent they [accused] would have been able to make out a case of political mala fide, but that by itself is not a submission to grant anticipatory bail overlooking other materials," Justice Pardiwala observed.

Political bias

The court said political bias might have its own legal implications, but at a later stage. Now, at the stage of considering the question of anticipatory bail, the court needs to only limit itself to whether a *prima facie* case had been made out against the accused by the State.

The court cautioned the State from adopting any "third-degree tactics".

Cong. flagpole, flex board destroyed in Kannur as SFI protest turns violent

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Violence broke out during a protest march organised by the Students Federation of India (SFI) in Kannur on Friday.

SFI activists reportedly uprooted a Congress flagpole near a bus stop and destroyed a flex board installed in support of Congress leader K. Sudhakaran in front of the taluk office.

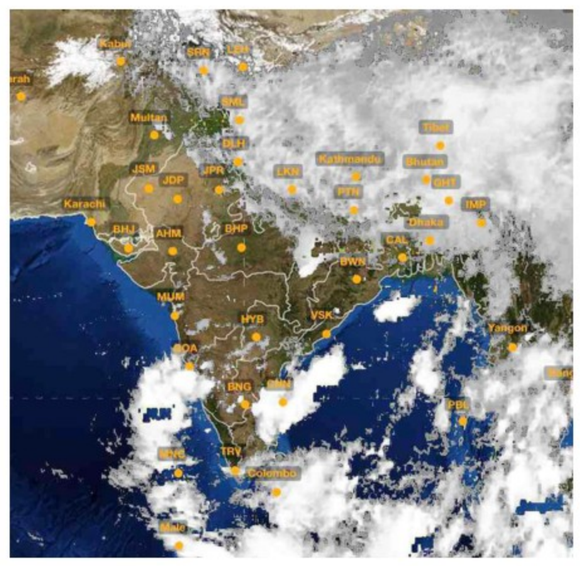
The protest was in response to a demonstration by Youth Congress and KSU members in Malapattam recently, which the SFI claimed insulted Dheeraj, an SFI activist who was stabbed to death allegedly by KSU members. Accusing the Youth Congress of dishonouring his memory, the SFI staged a counter-protest, condemning the slogans raised during that march. The SFI rally began from the KSRTC bus station and concluded at the municipal bus stand.

Ire on the street: SFI activists uprooting a Congress flagpole near a bus stop in Kannur on Friday. S.K. MOHAN

Police presence was bolstered in the area in response to the incident. Tension flared in Taliparamba in Kannur after CPI(M) workers allegedly attacked the house of Congress Taliparamba constituency vice-president K. Irshad. The incident on Thursday midnight involved vandalism and an attempted assault.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over west Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and southwest Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.4	27.6	Kozhikode	—	35.5	27.1
Ahmedabad	—	38.8	29.0	Kurnool	—	37.0	26.8
Aizawl	—	33.1	20.7	Lucknow	—	40.1	26.8
Allahabad	—	45.4	28.6	Madurai	67	37.5	22.1
Bengaluru	1.2	31.4	21.2	Mangaluru	0.6	33.7	26.4
Bhopal	—	38.4	26.2	Mumbai	—	34.4	27.7
Bhubaneswar	—	38.6	28.4	Mysuru	0.5	34.2	22.0
Chandigarh	5	39.0	19.8	New Delhi	—	42.3	26.2
Chennai	—	36.9	30.1	Patna	—	38.0	27.0
Coimbatore	—	36.0	24.8	Port Blair	36	31.0	24.8
Dehradun	—	36.5	22.3	Puducherry	—	37.1	28.1
Gangtok	55	20.0	15.5	Pune	—	37.3	26.3
Goa	—	35.0	28.0	Raipur	—	40.6	28.4
Guwahati	2	29.9	22.7	Ranchi	1	39.2	24.2
Hubballi	—	32.0	24.0	Shillong	—	24.6	17.2
Hyderabad	5	35.4	23.3	Shimla	5.2	26.6	14.5
Imphal	—	31.6	23.9	Srinagar	—	30.8	12.2
Jaipur	—	43.0	30.6	Thiruvananthapuram	4	33.7	25.3
Kochi	0.8	33.2	27.0	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.0
Kohima	1	24.8	17.8	Vijayawada	22	34.2	24.2
Kolkata	2	37.1	25.8	Visakhapatnam	—	36.1	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	93	22	89	108	
Bengaluru	29	40	32	49	72	
Chennai	9	14	61	70	74	
Delhi	18	125	30	271	386	
Hyderabad	8	41	50	60	78	
Kolkata	5	16	24	67	68	
Lucknow	11	57	57	301	293	
Mumbai	8	215	6	66	80	
Pune	—	36	43	63	92	
Visakhapatnam	12	68	24	79	126	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 278 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
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University Of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, NAAC 'A' Accredited
Estate Office, Naik Bhavan, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
No. EO/SPO/kppp/3/2025-26 Dated: 12-05-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KG-1, from the reputed firms for the procurement for the procurement of Equipment's.

Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for uploading the tender on 26.05.2025 up to 4:00 p.m. The Technical bid will be opened on 28.05.2025 at 10:30 a.m. The Financial bid will be opened on 31.05.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in. Help Desk 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 support@kppphelpdesk.com** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER
DIPR/CP/RO715/AAPL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/737 DATE: 15/05/2025

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 3 works under head of account 5054-SH Improvements & 2 works under head of account 5054-MDR Improvements. Totally 5 No. of works, amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 104.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 400.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events: 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 28-05-2025 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 29-05-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 31-05-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 02-06-2025 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-256/KSMCA/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Kunjibettu, Udupi - 576102
Ph: 0820 - 2525040 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
Ref. No. SEE/UDP/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-78/2025-26/481 Date: 25.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM invites tenders from eligible Bidders/Agencies for the following services in Udupi O&M Circle.

Sl.No	Description	Tender No.
1	Providing 02 No.s of Manpower Service for Housekeeping services of MESCOM O & M Circle Office building located at Kunjibettu, Udupi for a period of TWO years on outsource/contract basis.	MESCOM/ 2025-26/SE0127

The bids will be received through Electronic (e-tendering) mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.05.2025.** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superinteding Engineer (Ele),
O&M Circle, UDUPI
DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/185/25-26 dt: 16.05.2025
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (MPED-C),
N.R.Square, BBMP, Bengaluru-560002
No: E.E/MPED(C)/QTN/01/2025-26 Date: 16.05.2025

SHORT TERM QUOTATION NOTIFICATION FOR RATES
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Quotation is invited from the reputed agencies / Suppliers / Distributors /Contractors for the following items The interested supplier/agencies are requested to submit/upload their quotation through KPP-Portal on or before **23.05.2025 at 5:30 pm** as detail in the table indicated below, the quotation shall be opened on **26.05.2025 at 11.30AM**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	Qty
1.	Providing and supplying of P 1.5 Indoor LED screen **Technical Specification:** Module Resolution: 21632 pixels Module Dimension: 320 x 160 x 16.6mm Module weight: 0.45 +0.02 Kg Pixel pitch: 1.538mm Type: SMD1212 Refresh rate: 3840 Hz Standard colour: Temp (k) 6500 (1000~9500) Video Support: 2K HD, 4k UHD Screen Size (WxH): - 5 x12.6ft Module Size (WxH): 320 x 160 mm Cabinet Size (WxH): 960 x 960 mm Cabinet Material: Steel fixed	Nos	1.00
2.	Supplying of Receiving card, Software & Power cables and data cables	Set	1.00
3.	Supplying of Controller: Video Controller	Nos	1.00
4.	Transportation + Installation+Demo+Training charges	Nos	1.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: (1) The agency shall quote the rate as per the specification and drawing prescribed. (2) The rate quoted shall be inclusive of all materials, labour, fabrication, transportation etc..., excluding GST **(3)** The quotations are invited for the purpose of budgetary offer for adopting rates in the estimate. **(4)** The agencies do not have any claim for entrustment of work. **(5)** Any other information shall be had from the office of the under signed during office hours or Contact No.8892124229 **(6)** BBMP reserves right to accept or reject the quotation part or all without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MPED-C)

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Ph: 080-25586550, 25586402 Email: info@ksicsilk.com
No. KSIC/PR/TIE/01/2025-26 Date: 14.05.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

TENDERS are invited through KPP-Portal from reputed manufacturers for Supply of 300 Nos Jacquard Woven 100% Pure Silk Tie with matching pocket-square packed in a Gift box and 300 Nos 100% Pure Satin Printed Silk Tie with matching Pocket-square packed in a Gift box to KSIC, Reshmalaya Godown M G Road, Bengaluru.

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. Last date and time for uploading the tender along with **EMD of Rs. 14,000/-** through KPP-Portal is **05.06.2025 up to 3.00 P.M.** The Technical bids will be opened on **06.06.2025 at 03.30 P.M.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours or KPP-Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER(Proc)
DIPR/CP/650/AKAR/2025-26

GOVERNEMENT OF KARANTAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH BALLARI
O/o of the Chief Executive Officer, Ballari– 583101
E-mail :dsdev-zp-kabl@nic.in

E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS FURNITURES ITEMS FOR LIBRARIES OF GRAMA PANCHAYTHs IN BALLARI DIST UNDER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO STATE FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE YEAR-2024-25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TWO COVER TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEMS
(THROUGH KPPP PORTAL)

Tender is invited under Two Cover System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible suppliers having Infrastructure as stipulated in the Tender Document to E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS FURNITURES ITEMS FOR LIBRARIES OF GRAMA PANCHAYTHs IN BALLARI DIST. UNDER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO STATE FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE YEAR-2024-25

Tender Inviting Authority (TIA): **The Deputy Secretary. Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.** Tender Accepting Authority (TAA): **The chief Executive Officer. Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.** Tender Invitation Number: **No:ZPB/GP/NEWLIBRARIES/2024-25/59C5.** KPPP Portal address.: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.** Amount put to tender.: **Rs.89,00,000/-(RUPEES EIGHTYNINE LAKHS ONLY).** EMD amount.: **Rs.1,78,000/-(RUPEES ONE LAKHS SEVENTY EIGTH THOUSEND ONLY).** Date of commencement of downloading tender document: **14.05.2025. @ 1:00 PM.** Last Date and Time and Place for Sample Submission : **28.05.2025 @ 5:25 PM Place:-Zilla Panchayath Ballari.** Time and date of Pre bid meeting.: **20.05.2025 @ 11.00 AM @ Zilla Panchayath Ballari.** Last date and time for Receipt of tenders: **28.05.2025 @ 5:29 PM.** Time and date of opening of Electronic Document, First (Technical Bid) & Place: **29.05.2025 @ 5:30 PM (Zilla Panchayath Ballari).** Time and date of opening of Electronic Document, Second (Financial Bid): **Will be Intimated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.** Address for communication: **Office of The Deputy Secretary. Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.** Contact No & e Mail ID: **+91 9480855010 / e-Mail ID: dsdev-zp-kabl@nic.in**

TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY
Deputy Secretary, ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BALLARI.
+919480855010
Sd/-Deputy Secretary, ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BALLARI.
DIPR/Ballari/109/KSMCA/2025-26

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BELUR-573115, HASSAN
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_belur@yahoo.co.in, townmunicipal.belur@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08177–222221
No. TMC/JE/TENDER-08/2024-25 Dated: 12.05.2025

E-PROCUREMENT RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sl. No.1)Name of work: DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT 34810/CALL-2 (Reserved for ST Category Contractor) Tender amount (Rs. In Lakhs) 81,28,339-00 EMD (Rs. In Lakhs) 1,21,930-00 2)DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT34806/CALL-2 (Reserved for CAT-I Category Contractor)Tender amount (Rs. In Lakhs) 80,17,645-00 EMD (Rs. In Lakhs) 1,60,500- 1) Last date and time for tender notification in E-procurement: 21.05.2025 upto 5.30pm. 2) Techinical bid opening date and time: 23.05.2025 at 11.00am 3) Financial bid opening date and time: 27.05.2025 at 11.00am

Sd/- Ashok.A.R
President, TMC, Belur.
Sd/- Sujay Kumar S M, Chief Officer, TMC, Belur.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಟೆಸಸ/ಹಾಸನ/98/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/AE-2/Tender/2025-26 Dated: 12.05.2025
Invitation For Short term Tender
Tender ref no:06/2025-26

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. Total 02 Works (Madhugiri Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs.151.77 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://KPPP.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 27-05-2025 (up to 4.00 pm), Technical bids will be opened on 28-05-2025 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 22-05-2025 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri
DIPR/TUM/64/KSMCA/2025-26

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 5/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025

Tenders are invited from eligible contractors through KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for a total of 13 works under the sub-divisions of Public Works Department,Chikkamagaluru District under the title 2216-07-053-0-01-200-Maintenance of Public Works Housing and Judicial Housing, 8443 Deposit Contribution, 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads - improvements. Details regarding the capacity to undertake or perform the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW -1,2,3 &4) should be attached and the contractor can be awarded the contract only if he/she has the minimum qualifications as mentioned in Act 3.. The minimum estimated amount is Rs.1.00 lakhs and the maximum estimated amount is Rs.180.00 lakhs. The tenders for 13 works to be submitted through KPP Portal Tender are (In.No. :21665, 21573, 21833, 19044 (2 call) , 20797 (2 call), 20795 (3 call), 20796 (3 call), 19067 (2 call) Date:21.05.2025), (In.No.:19647 (2nd Call),21473 (2nd Call), 21475 (2nd Call), Date:22.05.2025), (In.No.:21288, 21248 Date:26.05.2025) & tenders to be submitted by 4.30PM on specified date. Tender details can be obtained by contacting the Content Administrator during office hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagalur.
DIPR/ckm/No.21/25-26/ksmca/247

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

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THE HINDU

Maximalism and the art of too much

Lessons from some of the best in this category – an office in Delhi, a fine dining restaurant in Hyderabad and Abu Jani & Sandeep Khosla's new Mumbai store

Rashmi Gopal Rao

Maximalism, whether in the form of bright colours, pattern drenching, statement furniture, or dramatic lighting, is a design trend going strong in 2025. Notably, there is a significant shift towards maximalism not just in residential interiors but also in commercial spaces such as offices, cafés, restaurants and boutique stores. "Today's commercial environments are no longer confined to sterile or muted aesthetics. They are becoming more expressive, layered, and bold," says Pooja Gupta, founder and principal designer of I Design Studios. "Businesses are recognising the power of design in storytelling and customer engagement. Maximalism offers the perfect canvas to do just that. Through a rich mix of colours, eclectic patterns, and tactile textures, we help brands create immersive spaces that reflect their identity, evoke emotion, and leave a lasting impression on every visitor," she adds.

This trend reflects a broader shift in how spaces are being viewed and utilised.

"Purely functional spaces such as workplaces, restaurants, and retail stores are also becoming expressions of culture, identity, and mood. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, these spaces help promote increased brand recall and facilitate a positive and inspiring experience for those who work in these settings," says Harkaran Singh Boparai, founder and principal architect of Harkaran Boparai Studio (HBS), an international design firm that is located in New Delhi, Amritsar and Dubai.

Commercial interiors today are a careful orchestration of unconventional colour palettes, art installations, bold wallpaper, curated objects, and vintage finds. "You will find jewel tones paired with natural wood, vintage textiles juxtaposed with contemporary art, and lighting that ranges from ornate chandeliers to sculptural wall sconces. Another common element is the use of feature walls, often with patterned wallpapers or textured surfaces," Boparai continues.

However, the key lies in balancing this visual richness with functionality, while enhancing productivity and supporting comfort.

The Grand Dining Hall by Essajees Atelier. SHAMANTH PATIL J

Inspired by old Delhi's chowks

Harkaran Boparai Studio (HBS) flagship office in New Delhi

The HBS flagship office in New Delhi draws inspiration from the layered vitality of old Delhi's chowks (traditional squares). Spread across three levels and over 4,500 sq. ft., the office embraces a narrative-driven approach to spatial design.

"The space, which is functionally divided into work, hospitality, and collaborative zones, features teak wood, floral fabrics reminiscent of vintage salons, fluted glass panels, and classic brass fittings. The colour palette is layered yet controlled with soft ice blues, dusty pinks, browns, and warm neutrals that create a nuanced backdrop for every space. Lighting is a mix of natural light, chandeliers, and sconce lighting, which create a sense of theatre and intimacy," says Boparai.

Cultural escape

Amiraah, multidesigner store in Kanpur by I Design Studios

An interplay of Indian cultural heritage and contemporary elements is seen in this 7,000 sq. ft. store located in the heart of Kanpur. Key features include arches, vintage-inspired furniture, ornate finishes, and carefully curated art pieces.

"The materials used are plush and indulgent. From velvet and brocade to antique metallic accents, they all create tactile richness. The colour palette leans into jewel tones and includes deep emeralds, rubies, and luxurious golds, lending warmth and drama to the interiors. The spatial flow is intuitive and seamless, with curated zones transitioning effortlessly between bridal couture, festive wear, contemporary pieces, and accessories," says Gupta.

Modern royals

KOKO, Asian fine-dining restaurant in Hyderabad by Essajees Atelier

Spread across a whopping 10,000 sq. ft., this space offers diners a sophisticated and stylish experience, blending Asian regal opulence and modern design. The softly backlit crimson-hued tunnel at the entrance sets the tone for the grandiose interiors, which feature marble flooring, lacquered wood accents, veneer walls, and intricate metalwork. "We have installed 200-ft. handcrafted origami lights in one part of the restaurant. They are made from a set of paper-like panels that are freely suspended from the ceiling, creating a flowy, whimsical pattern, which adds an element of intrigue to the overall space," says Sarah Sham, principal architect, Essajees Atelier, a global design company that provides luxury interiors.

Ode to Indian craft & culture

Abu Jani & Sandeep Khosla's new store, Jio Plaza in Mumbai by A Wonder Room (interior design vertical by Jani & Khosla)

Designer duo Abu Jani & Sandeep Khosla have always embraced maximalism. "Nothing creates another world like maximalism does. Every element invites you into another dimension, and it is a design language we have been using since the beginning of our four-decade career. Back then, it wasn't a trend, but we stayed true to our vision, and we are glad the world is catching up to the grand beauty and joy that the aesthetic evokes," says Khosla. To say that their newly opened 3,000 sq. ft. store in Mumbai's Jio World Plaza is luxurious and awe-inspiring is an understatement. Magnificent chandeliers, quilted curtains with mirror embroidery, bevelled mirror ceilings, and walls featuring hand-embroidered panels make the entire store seem like an encyclopaedia of art and craft.

"The space is brimming with India's majestic crafts taken to their maximal zenith. Inspired by the concept of a wonder room, we have created rooms within rooms with a tent adorned with various embroidery techniques. We have used several handicrafts to turn the store into an unforgettable symbol of India's breathtaking beauty," adds Jani.

Techniques like embossing, cutting, and quilting take textures and layering to another level here.

Ajrakh upholstery, Abla embroidered work, and Patola patterns are other elements that lend the space a distinctive vibe.

The Bengaluru-based freelance writer is passionate about all things design, travel, food, art and culture.

REAL ESTATE

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THE HINDU
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Closing argument

The Presidential Reference seeks to undermine a settled question

The Union government has missed an opportunity to put a lid on the prolonged controversy over the arbitrary and the undemocratic use of power by unelected Governors. A Supreme Court judgment on April 8, 2025 clarified the constitutional position over the powers of the Governor and the President in giving assent to Bills passed by State Assemblies. A Division Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan held that Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's act of withholding 10 State Bills was "illegal" and "erroneous". The well-reasoned judgment had outlined the possible courses of action for the Governor and the President once a Bill is before them for their assent, though the Constitution does not specify timelines. The judgment established long awaited and much required clarity on several questions. Now, the Centre, through a Presidential Reference, has brought up all these questions again to the Court, seeking its 'opinion' under Article 143. The power of Governors has been an extremely contentious question. The heightened brazenness of some Governors in recent years has created more bad blood between the Centre and the States, and undermined the mandate of States to govern. The Court's judgment took into account multiple judgments, reports of committees that examined the working of Indian federalism, and Constituent Assembly debates to arrive at a firm conclusion that Governors or the President do not have arbitrary powers to indefinitely hold up a law made by an elected Assembly from coming into force.

Governors are whimsical appointees of the Centre, and the Constitution does not vest them with infinite powers, least of all to undermine the elected Assembly. The Centre could have used the Court's judgment to bring a closure to the controversy once and for all. It could have, if it felt necessary, brought constitutional amendments in line with the Court's judgment. Instead, the Centre is raking up questions that are already settled, through a presidential reference. As constitutional scholars have pointed out, an opinion given by the Court does not override the Court's judgment. If it was only clarity that the Centre wanted, it could have sought it through a review petition and other established procedures. By choosing the unusual path of a Presidential Reference, the Centre is signalling an intent to seek for itself powers to be exercised through Governors, that the makers of the Constitution had not given it. The Court's judgment provided a sound framework for a consensus on the role of the Governor. The Centre should accept that, and if at all required, convene a meeting of Chief Ministers and political party representatives, to resolve any other residual issues.

Drinking to death

Illicit liquor tragedies expose systemic corruption and regulatory failure

Often described in media reports as "hooch tragedies" or "spurious liquor cases", the recurring incidents of illicit alcohol poisoning across India – most recently near Amritsar, Punjab, which claimed at least 23 lives – follow a grimly familiar pattern of poverty, greed, and regulatory failure. Each tragedy is eerily similar to the previous one, be it in terms of the socio-economic profile of the victims or the motivation of the perpetrators. The victims are typically poor, daily wage earners, seeking respite from the harsh realities of everyday drudgery. They are drawn by the lure of cheap alcohol, a vulnerability exploited by bootleggers, who are at the fag end of a long supply chain. These illicit brews often involve dangerous shortcuts, from incorporating toxic substances such as dead scorpions to diluting industrial methanol, a poisonous chemical that is deceptively similar to consumable ethanol. Methanol, easily pilfered and inexpensive, becomes a deadly profit source for bootleggers who may misjudge dilution ratios, leading to fatal consequences. The nexus among bootleggers, the police, and lower-level politicians is often apparent. While police negligence in Punjab has led to suspensions, these events are more about organised methanol theft in which the bootlegger is only the last mile operator. Methanol is not a drink; it is industrial alcohol, an intermediary in the petrochemical industry with extensive downstream use, and is, therefore, not illicit, except as an ingredient in hooch. It is categorised as a Class B poison in many States, but is cheaper than the liquor made biologically, mostly from molasses. After paying for the pilferage from authorised methanol dealers, bootleggers can still make a handsome profit.

Legal proceedings in illicit liquor cases often involve murder and attempted murder charges, besides those under prohibition laws. Yet convictions, as seen in the 2015 Malvani case, can be elusive. A court acquitted 10 of the 14 accused after nine years. None was found guilty of violating the Poison Act. Since methanol production and delivery are inter-State affairs, there is a case for a central framework on methanol transport for preventing such pilferage as well as stringent State regulation. The Poison Act may add teeth to the prosecution's case. But what is more important is to ensure that the lawmaker-enforcer dyad is incorruptible so that illegal methanol distribution is impossible. Eventually though, it is the sorry economic, social and educational situation of victims that creates a market for unscrupulous agents to make money. This can only be eradicated by tackling poverty, social inequality, and the lack of access to education alongside systemic corruption within law enforcement.

The new normal after Pahalgam, India's response

Rakesh Sood

is a former diplomat and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR)

Operation Sindoor is on 'pause' and though the ceasefire began somewhat shakily on Saturday evening (May 10), it seems to be holding. On May 12, the two Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMO) – India and Pakistan – had a follow-up conversation and discussed further de-escalatory measures to reduce troop presence in the forward areas that had seen a buildup in recent weeks.

Addressing the nation on Monday evening (May 12), Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared, "Operation Sindoor has redefined the fight against terror...setting a new benchmark and a new normal in counter-terrorism measures." Kinetic retaliation is not new. The Modi government conducted "surgical strikes" across the Line of Control (LoC) in 2016 after the Uri attack, and an air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) camp in Balakot in 2019 following the Pulwama suicide attack. Yet, the Pahalgam response was qualitatively different.

Eighty-eight hours to a ceasefire

After the Pahalgam attack on April 22, 2025, it was clear that the Indian government would respond with force. The only question was when and in what manner. The measures announced in the days that followed such as reducing diplomatic presence, switching off trade, closing down the Wagah-Attari border crossing, cancelling existing visas, and putting the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, were a strong response but not a substitute for kinetic retaliation.

The intervening fortnight till May 7 was used in finalising targets for kinetic retaliation and ramping up diplomatic engagement at all levels. Post 2019, Indian authorities were certain that, sooner or later, there would be a terrorist attack of a magnitude that would compel a calibrated military response. This demanded planning and periodic updating, based on evolving technical capabilities. Eventually, nine targets were chosen out of nearly two dozen options. The intense diplomatic engagement at all levels, in Delhi and other key capitals, prepared the ground to ensure an acceptance (though sometimes with caveats) of India's right to target the terrorists and their infrastructure. India's challenge was to restore red lines while managing the escalation narrative and leaving a de-escalation option open.

Shortly after the May 7 early morning strike was concluded (Operation Sindoor), the Pakistan DGMO Major General Kashif Abdullah was informed of the nine locations targeted as these were closely associated with designated terrorist groups, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the JeM, and the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. India emphasised the point that Operation Sindoor was against terrorists and not the Pakistani military or the Pakistani people. It added that if the Pakistani forces responded, India would reserve the right to retaliate. Pakistan acknowledged the strike (at six locations) and claimed that it had downed between five to six Indian aircraft, including some Rafale fighter jets, though this was denied by India. It offered an off-ramps de-escalation option – Pakistan claiming success in terms of taking down Indian aircraft, playing down the impact of Indian strikes, and taking the issue of violation of its territory to the United Nations Security Council, where it is currently a non-permanent member.

> India needs to work on its expansive 'new normal' in order for it to be a credible deterrent against terrorist attacks

However, Pakistan's military leadership saw it as an opportunity to bolster its faltering image and vowed military retaliation. The following two nights, Pakistan mounted escalating drone intrusions, together with some loitering munitions and missile firings, over 36 locations along the 3,300 kilometre-long India-Pakistan border, more with the intent to probe for gaps in India's air defences. India retaliated, with its declared quid pro quo plus policy, targeting Pakistani air bases and air defence units. However, Pakistan denied its intrusions even as it blamed India for repeated violations and attacks. Its air space remained open for civilian air traffic, prompting an Indian warning on May 9 that this was jeopardising civilian air traffic. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) board meeting on May 9 to approve the next tranche of the IMF Extended Fund Facility (loan to Pakistan) necessitated prudence.

The night of May 9-10 witnessed a dramatic escalation. Pakistan claimed to have struck 26 Indian targets "to reestablish deterrence after repeated Indian attacks". India acknowledged "limited damage to equipment and personnel at air force stations Udhampur, Pathankot, Adampur, and Bhuj". The Indian response on the morning of May 10 was ferocious and targeted nine military airfields, from Skardu and Chaklala in the north to Rahim Yar Khan and Jacobabad in the south as well as three forward air defence units. The stand-off weapons used included the Scalp and BrahMos missiles as well as the Crystal Maze, Hammer and Spice 2000 precision guided munitions. The previous 24 hours had seen intense diplomatic activity with a flurry of telephone calls between Washington, Islamabad, and Delhi. Following a conversation between the two DGMOs in the afternoon, a ceasefire came into effect at 5 p.m. (1700 hours) on May 10.

The U.S.'s role

Initially, the U.S. adopted a hands-off approach, with United States Vice-President J.D. Vance suggesting on May 8 that the U.S. was not going to get involved "in the middle of a war that is fundamentally none of our business". However, within 24 hours, the U.S. assessment changed as it picked up signs of more cross-border strikes and reports that Pakistan was scheduling a meeting of its National Command Authority (NCA), or the body that oversees the country's nuclear arsenal. While Mr. Vance spoke to Mr. Modi on the evening of May 9 (Indian time), sharing the U.S.'s concerns about a "dramatic escalation", the following day (Indian time) U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Pakistani Army Chief General Asim Munir, following it up with calls to his counterparts India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif announced on May 10 that no meeting of the NCA had taken place.

U.S. President Donald Trump's message on May 10 pre-empted the official announcement about the ceasefire raising questions about the U.S.'s role. The fact is that after 1998, the U.S. has played a role in de-escalating multiple crises: Kargil in 1999, the Indian Parliament attack and Operation Parakram in 2001, Mumbai in 2008 and Balakot in 2019, the exception being the 2016 surgical strikes that Pakistan denied had happened. Yet, none of these instances has led to U.S. mediation and there is little reason to think otherwise this time. There are only two ways of avoiding external intervention – first, increase the economic and military differential with Pakistan, and second, have independent communication channels between the two countries.

Conflict under the nuclear shadow

Since 1998 when both India and Pakistan emerged as nuclear-weapon-states, Pakistan's approach has been to reduce the space for conventional war, by flashing the nuclear card and threatening early nuclear use. The objective is to constrain India's space for a kinetic response to a terrorist attack. However, this is no longer working. If the 2016 'surgical strikes' made kinetic retaliation the new normal, Balakot enlarged it in 2019 by introducing air power, and Operation Sindoor has expanded it to cover all of Pakistan. So far, India has emphasised that it has been retaliating against terrorist targets – launch pads across the LoC in 2016, a Balakot training camp in 2019, and the nine locations now (Operation Sindoor). However, Mr. Modi has added a new dimension.

In the expansive 'new normal' that he outlined on May 12, he reiterated India's right to respond militarily to any terror attack and not be deterred by "nuclear blackmail", but added that India would not differentiate between terrorists and their masterminds or the governments sponsoring terrorism. This addition puts the Pakistani military on notice that the next time, India's kinetic response under an Operation Sindoor 2.0 may not be limited to terrorist targets. The hardening position is evident in his statement, "terror and talks cannot go together; terror and trade cannot go together; water and blood cannot flow together."

By expanding the scope of conventional operations below the nuclear threshold, Mr. Modi is seeking to nullify the nuclear overhang but this requires a significant expansion in conventional capabilities. Capabilities to suppress hostile air defences and adopt a network-centric-approach that seamlessly integrates manned and unmanned air systems with satellite-based support for surveillance, communication and targeting, will need to be introduced. Simultaneously, India needs to draw lessons from the intelligence and security lapses that led to Pahalgam, in order to better plan, predict and prevent future Pahalgams. Only then will the expansive 'new normal' be a credible deterrent against future terrorist attacks.

The ingredient to turn around nutrition outcomes

Divya Bharti

is a Researcher and Faculty Associate, KIIT School of Management

The analysis of India's free foodgrain programme for 800 million people underscores a grim reality: that hunger and malnutrition remain pressing concerns. Yet, in India's long battle against malnutrition, women and girls remain the most overlooked section. Despite steady economic progress and numerous welfare schemes, nutritional inequality continues to be deeply gendered. Launched in 2018 with the vision of a malnutrition-free India by 2022, the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan has the aim of improving nutrition for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and young children. However, stark disparities persist.

Structural failures

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 reveals that 57% of women in the age group 15 to 49 years are anaemic, in comparison to 26% of men; nearly one in five women are underweight. In other words, women are far more likely to be malnourished than men in India. These figures point to structural failures in how we address nutrition. Even after merging schemes into 'POSHAN 2.0' and investing heavily, the needle has not moved enough for women.

Indeed, POSHAN Abhiyaan is India's largest nutrition programme with a hefty budget. In 2022-23, the Ministry of Women and Child Development was allocated nearly ₹24,000 crore for Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, but by December 2022, only 69% of those funds had been utilised. Despite such spending, the prevalence of anaemia among women actually rose from 53% to 57% between the last two NFHS rounds, and about 18.7% of women remain underweight.

This contrast suggests that just pumping in resources into a women-centric nutrition scheme is not enough. In many Indian households, especially the poorer ones, women's nutritional needs are literally last in line. Entrenched cultural norms often mean that when food is scarce, women and girls eat least and last. Thus, malnutrition is not just a biomedical or food-supply issue; it is a social justice issue. If a woman lacks economic independence or decision-making power, she may have little control over her diet and health. Even government data underscores this link: the NFHS-5 found that 49% of women lack decision-making power over how their own earnings are spent. This financial dependence often translates into compromised nutrition – a result of gender-based deprivation.

> Empowering women financially is an effective way to improve the nutritional outreach in India

The issue of empowerment

Studies have shown that empowering women financially is one of the most effective ways to improve nutrition. Nobel laureate Esther Duflo, for instance, finds that when women control extra income, they are more likely to spend it on nutrition and children's well-being. In a study we conducted among low-income communities, we observed that women with even a modest independent income or control over household spending were far less likely to be undernourished.

The missing piece in India's nutrition puzzle is women's economic and social empowerment. The state of women's employment suggests that female labour force participation has risen from about 23% in 2017-18 to around 33% in 2021-22 – a positive shift on paper. But a vast majority of working women are in insecure, low-paying jobs. According to the Periodic Labour Force Surveys, as of 2021-22 only 5% of working women held a regular salaried job, while nearly 20% were self-employed (mostly in small-scale or informal activities). Moreover, self-employed women earned on average 53% less than men in similar work. In effect, many women who do work are barely earning enough to survive, employment has not yet translated into the power to make decisions or invest in their own nutrition and well-being.

Thus, it is not enough to get women into the workforce; the quality and security of their jobs matter just as much. Without skills training, equal pay, and access to stable employment, women remain economically vulnerable even when they work.

As a result, even well-intentioned nutrition programmes such as POSHAN will have limited impact if women cannot afford or are not empowered to consume the nutritious food being provided. Government reports praise Poshan Abhiyaan for creating awareness and a "Jan Andolan" around nutrition, but awareness alone cannot fill an empty stomach.

Need for convergence

If POSHAN 2.0 aims to eliminate undernutrition, it should work in tandem with schemes that boost women's incomes and status. First, it must set measurable targets not just for reducing anaemia or stunting, but also for increasing the proportion of women with independent incomes and decision-making power. Second, it must break the silos, making sure that nutrition, health, and livelihood departments work together on joint interventions in high-malnutrition districts. Third, it must use Anganwadi centres and health workers to not only distribute food and supplements but also to connect women with skill training, credit schemes, or job opportunities. An Anganwadi can double as a one-stop hub for women's welfare (meals, antenatal care, financial literacy workshops).

Ultimately, a malnutrition-free India will be possible only when women are not seen as passive beneficiaries of nutrition schemes but as active agents driving the health and the prosperity of their families.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Right stance

India's Defence Minister is right in his demand that the nuclear arsenal of Pakistan should be brought under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency (Page 1, May 16). A country that uses the threat of 'nuclear blackmail' cannot be trusted to be restrained under any circumstances. A country with a state policy of nurturing and exporting cross-border terrorism makes this a situation that is all the more dangerous.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Presidential Reference

The developments around the Supreme Court's 'timelines' to Governors and the President while dealing with State Bills, show that the intent of the Centre is to not let go of its stranglehold on States, thus gagging a healthy federal set up in the country ("Stalin calls out Presidential Reference to top court on timeline to act on State Bills", May 16). In fact, the top court has only provided a safety valve in its verdict to ease the pressure arising out of growing stalemates between some Governors and certain States.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

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When home is near the border

(Top to bottom) The car burnt during the attack by Pakistan at Khai Pheme Ki village in Ferozepur district, Punjab; the cattle that also got burns; relatives and people of the village outside the house of Sukhwinder Kaur who died in the attack.
SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

After days of living through heightened uncertainty following the targeting of civilians by Pakistan, villagers along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab are hoping that peace holds and their lives return to normalcy, reports **Ishita Mishra**

The drive down the double-lane Damar road from Punjab's Ferozepur city to Khai Pheme Ki village takes 15 minutes. Flanking the road are freshly harvested fields and trucks loaded with grain-filled sacks. Farm houses appear intermittently. On the face of it, the regular cycle of sowing and reaping continues in this village in Ferozepur district, in the State that feeds the Food Corporation of India with the largest share of wheat.

Khai Pheme Ki village sits less than 15 kilometres away from India's border with Pakistan. On a scorching day in May, hundreds have gathered outside one of the homes here, to pay homage to 50-year-old Sukhwinder Kaur, who died on May 13. Days earlier, she had sustained severe burn injuries from a strike by Pakistan, when she was serving her family dinner. Her husband, Lakhwinder Singh, 57; and son Jaswant Singh, 25, too suffered serious burns in the incident, and are being treated in hospital.

The attack took place during the military confrontation over four days between India and Pakistan, following India's precision strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on the night of May 6-7. Tensions between the two countries escalated after 26 civilians were killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. The Resistance Front, an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a terror group with its headquarters in Muridke in Pakistan, initially claimed responsibility for the attack. As a response to India's initial strikes, Pakistan targeted civilian areas and military installations in India's border regions of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

Sukhwinder's death has opened the wounds of the people who live in villages which share a border with Pakistan, where life becomes unpredictable every time there is tension between the two countries.

In Pojoke Uttar village, approximately 3 km from the border, when tensions escalated, people began sleeping in fields. With blackouts, and drones hovering in the skies, family members took turns to guard their homes and villages. They switched off the lights before darkness descended fully, understanding what could happen if they did not.

In Habibwala village, barely 2 km from the border, younger men dug bunkers, and women sent children to the homes of their maternal grandparents if they lived away from the border. Malla Singh, a village panchayat member, says about 30 big and small bunkers were made in 10 days.

> We had just sat down for dinner when something hit our car and there was a blast. Before we could gather our senses, our bodies were burnt
>
> **JASWANT SINGH**
> Resident, Khai Pheme Ki village

Scars and strains

The authorities took away the remains of the object that fell inside Sukhwinder's compound, but her car whose bonnet was blown up in the fire is still parked here, charred from the impact on May 9 night. Just a few metres away from the car are three cattle inside a shed. Two have suffered burns and their skins are peeling off. The electric wires passing through the roof of the house are hanging low, half melted; there are blood stains in both rooms and on the veranda.

Neighbours rushed the family of three to the hospital. Sukhwinder was shifted to a bigger facility in Ludhiana, and died four days later. When her body was brought home, the neighbours put together money for tents to be set up on the roadside, so that the villagers could pay their respects without having to stand in the scorching heat.

When Jaswant heard that his mother had died, he insisted on leaving the hospital for a day, despite burns and splinter injuries. "We had just sat down for dinner when something hit our car and there was a blast. Everything went up in flames. Before we could gather our senses, our bodies were burnt," he says, with a deep sense of loss.

His older brother had died in an accident a few years ago. As he waits for his mother's body, he turns to his relatives and friends, asking every few minutes when the ambulance will arrive from Ludhiana. Then he asks about his father, who too sustained 70% burns. When Sukhwinder's body is brought home, Jaswant, who is unable to walk because of the injuries, drags himself from the cot with the help of four people and places his hands on his mother's forehead.

The calm of the village is broken with the wails of the women. The men decide something must be done before the body is cremated. Those who are in mourning start raising slogans demanding ₹1 crore compensation, a government job for one member of the family, and the status of 'martyr' for Sukhwinder. Hours after negotiating with government officials and the police, the family cremates the body. Later, the Punjab government offers a ₹10 lakh compensation.

The bridge to history

In Hussainiwala, a little over 10 km from Ferozepur city, a cluster of villages border Pakistan. Here, many have vacated their homes and gone to live with relatives in places less dangerous. The National Martyrs Memorial, built in memory of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, is in Hussainiwala. Before the tensions, a daily changing of the guard took place, where both sides ceremonially lowered the flags in the evening.

"It was important for us to leave, not because we are afraid of drones or shelling, but because if we hadn't left, we might have ended up stuck had matters escalated," says Gomma Singh, a member of the farmers' union in Gatti Rajjo Ki village in the area. He remembers stories of the 1971 war between the two countries, when Hussainiwala had become a location of conflict between Indian and Pakistani troops. The bridge to Hussainiwala, which was destroyed in that conflict and rebuilt later, is now heavily guarded by Indian troops, and only locals are allowed to pass through. It is covered with a shed.

Gomma says some people have started returning home after the understanding to "stop all firing and military action on land, in the air, and sea" came into effect on May 10, but many are still waiting. He demands that the government "give all of us homes in cities" as living on the border "keeps us in uncertainty".

Life disrupted

Life in towns and cities in Punjab has also been affected, though cities such as Chandigarh are over 200 km from the border with Pakistan. With extra precautions ordered by the district administration, the people in Ferozepur were forced to cut short family functions and shut businesses after dusk. Rajeev Monga, whose niece got engaged on May 10, had to downscale celebrations. Simran Singh, whose son was preparing for the engineering entrance exam, was unable to reach Bengaluru on the day of the test, as the nearest airport in Amritsar was shut. The family could not get a train ticket in time. Travel agencies and hoteliers are seeing cancellations during the usually hectic school summer vacation.

> We shouldn't pray for war; no one knows whether it will end in five days or in five years
>
> **NISHANT SINGH**
> Owner of hotel and restaurant in Ferozepur city

"War is not good for anyone. Look at the Russia-Ukraine war. Who had thought that it would last for over three years? We shouldn't pray for war; no one knows whether it will end in five days or in five years," says Nishant Singh, who runs a hotel and restaurant near Bhagat Singh colony in Ferozepur city.

In Punjab's Bhatinda, a Haryana labourer was killed and nine others sustained injuries after an unidentified aircraft crashed and went up in flames during the wee hours of May 7.

Children and seniors affected

The India-Pakistan border is marked with a barbed wire and on normal days, the Zero Line is guarded by the Border Security Force (BSF). The Army takes over the guard in war-like situations. While guarding the Zero Line, a BSF troop had shot dead a Pakistani intruder close to the Lakha Singh Wala BSF post in Mamdot block of Ferozepur on May 8. It is also from Ferozepur that a BSF constable, Purnam Kumar Shaw, had inadvertently crossed into Pakistani territory on April 23. He was repatriated on May 15.

"My grandchild panicked when a blackout was announced on day one and the intruder was shot at," says Bariam Singh, 65, from Basti Ram Lal village, smiling at his 16-year-old grandchild. He feels that earlier, wars were fought between men in uniforms; now, they are between machines, drones, and missiles.

Lt. Gen. Deepender Singh Hooda, who retired as the Northern Army Commander, agrees with Bariam on the way warfare has changed. He says, "Punjab is a key strategic location for both India and Pakistan. After Jammu, this State has a lot of civilians living in border villages. Our neighbouring country has a tendency of attacking civilians to put pressure on the government. This is why Punjab remains one of the worst-affected areas on the border, during wars."

In Kashmir, 18 people died in the targeting of civilians by Pakistan, following Operation Sindoor. Fourteen of them were from Poonch and two were children. Officials say four districts in Jammu and Kashmir – Poonch, Kupwara, Rajouri, and Baramulla – witnessed heavy losses. Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, the Director General of Military Operations, has confirmed that the armed forces lost five personnel.

At the Zero Line, retired Army Hawaldar Surjeet Singh has agricultural land that he rushed to harvest when he sensed trouble. Surjeet says people living in border villages get the least facilities, but live under the highest threat. "With the border so close, we always face the threat of firing. But there is no hospital nearby that is capable of treating grievous wounds. We have to go to cities, 40-50 km away," he says.

Darbara Singh from Basti Ram Lal has just finished feeding his cattle when his wife hands him the phone. His elder son, who is in the Indian Army and is posted in Jammu and Kashmir, has called after three days. "My son says we can sleep peacefully as the Army is awake, guarding the nation," Darbara says.

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From Page One

Pak. will use IMF money to fund terror: Rajnath

Saying that the Pakistan government had announced financial assistance to rebuild the terror infrastructure of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the JeM located in Muridke and Bahawalpur, Mr. Singh called upon the IMF to reconsider its $1 billion assistance to Islamabad and refrain from providing any support in future as well. "Pakistan will spend the tax collected from its citizens to give around ₹14 crore to Masood Azhar, the head of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist organisation, even though he is a UN-designated terrorist," he said.

Highlighting the role of the IAF in Operation Sindoor, Mr. Singh said that the IAF spearheaded this campaign against terrorism, and during the operation, it not only dominated the enemy, but decimated them. India's fighter aircraft were capable of striking every corner of Pakistan without crossing the border. "The IAF gave the proof that India's war policy and technology have changed. They conveyed the message of new India that we are not just dependent on weapons and platforms imported from abroad, but Made in India equipment have become a part of our military power. The weapons manufactured in India are also impenetrable," the Minister said.

On the BrahMos supersonic missile, Mr. Singh said Pakistan had itself accepted the power of the missile. This Made in India missile showed Pakistan the light of day in the darkness of night, he said, also lauding India's air defence system, in which Akash and other radar systems had played a tremendous role.

SC's 3-month timeline in Governor verdict was adopted from Centre's own guidelines

The court's April 8 judgment made it clear that it was adopting guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs through two Office Memorandums issued in 2016 fixing a three-month timeline for the President; the govt. had also posted directions for Central Ministries involved in the process

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Centre, through the means of a Presidential Reference, has questioned the Supreme Court's decision in the Tamil Nadu Governor case to "impose" a three-month timeline for the President to decide on State legislations reserved for consideration under Article 201 by Governors.

The Reference wants the Supreme Court to answer whether a time limit could be imposed through a judicial order on the President when the Constitution did not prescribe it under Article 201.

However, the Supreme Court's April 8 judgment made it clear that it was merely adopting guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) through two back-to-back Office Memorandums (OMs) issued in 2016 fixing a three-month timeline for the President.

"We deem it appropriate to adopt the timeline prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the aforesaid guidelines, and prescribe that the President is required to take a decision on the Bills reserved for his consideration by the Governor within a period of three months from the date on which such reference is received," Justice J.B. Pardiwala had observed in the Supreme Court verdict.

The recommendations made by the Sarkaria and Punchhi commissions and the guidelines framed by the Central government had collectively called for expediency in the disposal

The Supreme Court verdict had said that introducing timelines was in line with constitutional accountability. FILE PHOTO

of references made by Governors to the President under Article 201.

The first OM of February 4, 2016, reproduced in the pages of the judgment, highlighted the "undue delay" caused in taking a final decision on State Bills despite clear guidelines.

"A time limit of maximum three months be strictly adhered to for finalising the Bills after their receipt from the State governments," the OM said.

The court detailed that the MHA, as the nodal Ministry, would refer the substantive issues involved in a State Bill to the appropriate Ministry at the Centre. Issues pertaining to the Bill's language, drafting or constitutional validity would be referred to the Union Law Ministry. The Ministry concerned with the substantive issues must report back to the MHA within 15 days. If there was a delay, the Ministry must assign reasons for it. Any failure to do so within a maximum period of a month would be understood to mean that it had no comments to offer.

"A perusal of the OM makes it clear that a timeline of three months has been prescribed for the decision on Bills reserved for the President. A time limit of three weeks has been prescribed for the disposal of ordinances of an urgent nature," Justice Pardiwala interpreted.

The second OM, also issued on February 4, 2016, said that objections, if any, raised by the Ministry concerned must be shared with the State government in question for its views or further clarifications.

"This is done with the object of apprising the Central Ministry of the clarifications of the State government on the matter. A time-limit of one month has been prescribed for the same," the judgment had said.

The State government had to cooperate with the one-month timeline, the court said, as delay would have the "ripple effect" of postponing the decision of the Centre on the matter.

"The idea of imposing timelines on the various stakeholders would not be antithetical or alien to the procedure that surrounds the discharge of constitutional functions under Article 201. The existence of the two Office Memorandums further substantiates such an interpretation," Justice Pardiwala had reasoned in the judgment.

NIA searches 15 locations linked to BKI in Punjab

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday conducted searches at 15 locations linked to banned Khalistani terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in different parts of Punjab, in connection with the grenade attack on a police station in Gurdaspur last December.

Documents, mobiles and digital devices were among the materials seized during the searches.

"On the radar were premises of suspects linked with U.S.-based BKI operative and gangster Harpreet Singh, aka Happy Passian, and Shamsher Singh Shera, along with others based in various countries. A key aide of Pakistan-based BKI terrorist Harwinder Singh, aka Rinda, Happy has been found to be responsible for recently orchestrating numerous grenade attacks on police stations and police posts in Punjab and Haryana," said the agency.

After ED arrest , *Gujarat Samachar* owner gets bail on health grounds

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

A court in Ahmedabad on Friday granted bail to one of the owners of leading Gujarati daily *Gujarat Samachar*, Bahubali Shah, till May 31 on health grounds, a day after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

Principal District and Sessions Judge K.M. Sojitra ordered Mr. Shah's release on interim bail while adjourning the hearing on his application for regular bail to May 31.

The court directed Mr. Shah, 73, to furnish a surety and personal bond of ₹10,000. It also imposed the condition that the investigating agency must be informed about his health status every other day, and he must cooperate with the investigation, subject to his medical condition.

The ED, which arrested Mr. Shah at 8 p.m. on Thursday, did not oppose interim bail, stating it was giving its consent "strictly on humanitarian grounds and extreme medical condition of the accused". Mr. Shah is one of the directors of Lok Prakashan Limited, which owned *Gujarat Samachar*. His elder brother Shreyansh Shah is the managing editor of the daily.

The premises of *Gujarat Samachar* were searched by officials from both the ED and the I-T department for several hours. VIJAY SONEJI

The ED has not yet issued any statement about the reasons behind Mr. Shah's arrest. The agency conducted searches at the offices of *GSTV*, a Gujarati news channel run by Mr. Shreyansh Shah, in Ahmedabad on Thursday evening. The ED team arrived soon after the Income Tax department searched the premises for 36 hours, said Tushar Dave, head of digital services at *GSTV*, in a Facebook post.

Gujarat MLA and Congress leader Jignesh Mevani slammed the ED, saying, "*Gujarat Samachar* and its owners are being targeted because, for the last 25 years, the newspaper has been publishing reports critical of the Central government."

Press bodies react

Several press bodies also expressed concern over Mr. Bahubali Shah's arrest, stating that the move "reflects a troubling assault on press freedom and democratic values".

In a joint statement, the Press Club of India, Indian Women's Press Corps, Press Association, Delhi Union of Journalists, Kerala Union of Working Journalists, and Working News Cameramen's Association called "for the immediate release of the owner unless credible evidence is presented in a transparent manner".

"A respected publication with a long-standing legacy of independent journalism, *Gujarat Samachar* has been a vital voice for the people of Gujarat and beyond. Once again, the arrest by the ED raises questions about the misuse of state machinery to muzzle media houses and suppress dissenting voices. "The repeated actions by the ED and allied agencies to target the media certainly undermine the fundamental principles of democracy enshrined in the Constitution and erode public trust in institutions," the statement said.

Anyone not compromising with BJP will have to go to jail: Kharge on ED action

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday strongly criticised the arrest of one of the owners of *Gujarat Samachar*, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge asserting that "anyone who doesn't compromise with the BJP will have to go to jail".

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Bahubali Shah, following a raid on the daily's premises.

Taking to X, Mr. Kharge quoted an earlier interview of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which the latter had said, "Criticism is the soul of democracy."

"*Gujarat Samachar* is a 93-year-old institution and by arresting its senior founder Bahubali Shah, Modi *ji* has proved that arresting critics is the first sign of a scared dictator," Mr. Kharge said in his post.

"Whoever raises voice against this government, and who does not compromise with BJP, will have to go to jail. The government putting pressure on independent media and using it to its own advantage is fatal for democracy," the Congress chief added.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the attempt to "silence *Gujarat Samachar* is not just about one newspaper but of the entire democracy".

"When a lock is put on a newspaper, that shows the mirror to power, then one must understand that democracy is in danger. The arrest of Bahubali Shah is a part of the politics of fear, which has now become the identity of the Modi government. The country will neither be run by sticks nor by fear: India will be run by truth and the Constitution," Mr. Gandhi said on X.

Sharing his admiration for the paper on social media, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh said, "At least there are some people left in media who have the courage to stand up and do impartial reporting. I am sure it is just 'witch hunting' to harass the owners, ultimately they would come out clean. We all stand by them".

Gujarat Congress chief Shaktisinh Gohil noted that earlier too, the X handle of *Gujarat Samachar* was blocked. "His [Mr. Shah] only crime was that he was continuously asking questions to the government and fixing their responsibility."

U.K. determined to play role in improving India-Pakistan ties, fighting terror: Lammy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after the cessation of firing and large-scale military actions between India and Pakistan, global powers continued to extend support to the existing pause on the military actions between the two sides. The U.K. said on Friday it was "determined" to ensure counter-terror efforts and that the pause in hostilities remained on track.

Speaking at Islamabad, U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy strongly condemned terrorism and emphasised the close ties that India and Pakistan enjoy with the U.K.

"It is positive that India and Pakistan – both great friends to the U.K. – have agreed to a pause in hostilities and that the ceasefire is holding. Because of the deep and historic links between our populations and

David Lammy

our governments, we are determined to play our part to counterterrorism and ensure this fragile ceasefire becomes a durable peace," said Mr. Lammy, announcing that he would "soon" travel to India. He further said, "Ever since the horrendous terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the U.K. has done all it can to play a supportive role to reduce tensions, get to a ceasefire and condemn terrorism."

Officials here indicated that Mr. Lammy will not come to Delhi from his tour of Islamabad, mainly because of India's strong emphasis on de-hyphenation from Pakistan, and that Mr. Lammy's India visit will therefore be announced later.

"The images of conflict between India and Pakistan were distressing for all of us in Britain: but in particular the millions of Brits with Indian and Pakistani heritage, and the many British nationals living in both of these countries," said Mr. Lammy.

The remarks from the U.K. Foreign Secretary, who has held multiple phone calls with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the evolving situation, came soon after the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also extended support to the pause in military actions with spokesperson Maria Zakharova expressing hope that the "emerging normalisation" will be long-lasting.

Cong. accuses Bihar govt. of trying to block Rahul's event

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Bihar Congress on Friday accused the State government of trying to prevent Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, from interacting with students as part of the party's Shiksha Nyay Samvad programme.

Mr. Gandhi on Thursday walked nearly 2.5 km to the Ambedkar Welfare Hostel in Darbhanga after the police stopped his convoy from proceeding to the venue of the event, a scheduled interaction with students from the SC, ST, OBC, and EBC communities. Despite the interruption, he met the students.

Bihar Congress incharge Krishna Allavaru said the police action was at the behest of Deepak Kumar, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who, Mr. Allavaru said, has been acting like Bihar's "Super CM".

Shah inaugurates revamped multi-agency network built at ₹500 cr. to fight terrorism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated the revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC), a common counter-terrorism grid under the Intelligence Bureau (IB) that was conceptualised in 2001 post the Kargil war. The new MAC network securely connects all police districts in the country and has been built at a cost of ₹500 crore.

A statement by the Union Home Ministry said that the "new MAC will go a long way in combating the terror ecosystem having intricate linkages with the organised crime". As many as 28 organisations, including the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), armed forces and State police, are part of the platform, and various security agencies share real-time intelligence inputs in the MAC.

Amit Shah during the inauguration of the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) at North Block, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

On the occasion, Mr. Shah said Operation Sindoor was a unique symbol of the firm political will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accurate information of intelligence agencies and the infallible strike capability of the three armed forces.

He said that India was proud of its three armed forces, the Border Security Force and all the security agencies.

Speaking about the historic anti-Naxal operations conducted by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in Karreguttalu Hills (KGH) on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana boundary recently, Mr. Shah said the operations against Maoists demonstrated the excellent coordination between the security forces.

The Minister said the new MAC will provide an integrated platform for synergising the efforts of all the agencies in addressing the complex national security challenges.

Kuki-Zo bodies set terms for talks with Centre

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Kuki-Zo organisations in conflict-scarred Manipur have decided not to engage with the Centre or its representatives until "substantive political dialogue" with the armed groups is resumed.

The MLAs of the State, leaders of civil society organisations (CSOs) and extremist groups that signed the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement converged in Guwahati on Friday to discuss options for the return of normalcy in Manipur.

"We resolved that until the resumption of substantive political dialogue by the Government of India with the SoO groups, the CSOs and elected representatives shall no longer engage with the Government of India or its representatives," read a joint statement issued by the groups.

Pakistan, India should settle outstanding issues: Sharif

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and India should sit down at the table like peaceful neighbours and settle their outstanding issues, including Kashmir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday night, as the country observed *Youm-e-Tashakur* (Day of Thanks) to pay homage to the military.

Addressing a special event at the Pakistan Monument here, Mr. Sharif said India and Pakistan fought three wars and got nothing. "The lesson is to sit down as peaceful neighbours and settle all outstanding issues. Without resolution of our issues, we cannot have peace in this part of the world," Mr. Sharif said. India has made it clear that it will only have a dialogue with Pakistan on the return of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the issue of terrorism.

"If peace comes, we can also cooperate in counter-terrorism," said the Prime Minister, who was the chief guest at the event, attended by top Army officials.

He thanked all friendly countries for their role in arranging the ceasefire, and especially thanked U.S. President Donald Trump for playing "an active role".

Opposition accepts govt. invite to join diplomatic outreach

Centre to send eight delegations to Europe, West Asia, and Africa and explain India's stand on the conflict with Pakistan; these delegations, comprising roughly 10 members each, will have parliamentarians, former diplomats, strategic experts

Sobhana K. Nair
Suhasini Haidar
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has reached out to senior leaders from the Opposition and the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as the government gets ready to send eight delegations to major countries in Europe, West Asia, and Africa, to present India's point of view on the recent conflict with Pakistan.

According to sources, several leaders have accepted the invitation.

The Hindu reported on Thursday on the government's initiative to rope in major political parties for a diplomatic outreach, put up a united front against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, and explain India's position on the conflict triggered by the Pahalgam attack. These delegations, comprising roughly 10 members each, will have parliamentarians, former diplomats, and strategic experts. The External Affairs Ministry will be briefing the members in a day or two with details.

United for a cause: Participants take part in a Tiranga Yatra, organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party in support of Operation Sindoor, in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu. M. MOORTHY

Sources said Mr. Rijiju spoke to several leaders between Thursday night and Friday morning. He called them to check their availability and willingness. The JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha, the BJD's Sasmit Patra, John Brittas of the CPI(M), Priyanka Chaturvedi of the Shiv Sena (UBT), Supriya Sule of the NCP (SP), the DMK's K. Kanimozhi, the AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, and the AAP's Vikramjit Sawhney are some of the leaders whom Mr. Rijiju rang up.

The government has tapped at least four Congress leaders for the tour. They are Lok Sabha MPs Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Amar Singh, and former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid. Mr. Tharoor, who has been under fire for his recent remarks on the negotiations between India and Pakistan, has refused to confirm or deny his presence in the delegation.

After the government reached out to some Congress leaders individually, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi discussed the issue and nominated Anand Sharma as well from the party. Mr. Sharma has held the Commerce and External Affairs portfolios in the past. The government is insisting that Mr. Tharoor head one of the delegations.

'Double standard'

Meanwhile, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, questioned the double standard of the government. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a meeting of only NDA Chief Ministers on May 25 to take "political mileage" from Operation Sindoor. "But he now wants MPs from all parties to go abroad as a delegation for explaining India's stance on terrorism from Pakistan. The diplomatic initiative is badly needed but why these double standards."

He also confirmed the Congress's participation. "Keeping national interest above all, the Congress will certainly join the delegation of multi-party MPs. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has spoken to the Congress president, who will depute party leaders," he said.

Trinamool Congress's Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandhopadhyay, as per sources, has declined the invitation citing his medical condition and the short notice.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also spoke to Mr. Bandhopadhyay. It is not yet clear whether the Trinamool will nominate another leader in his place.

A senior DMK functionary confirmed that Mr. Rijiju spoke to Ms. Kanimozhi, the party's parliamentary leader, but added that the government was yet to provide information on the destination and other details.

Under Operation Sindoor, India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early on May 7.

INBRIEF

IIT-Roorkee cancels MoU with Turkiye's Inonu university

Joining a growing chorus of Indian private companies and institutions distancing themselves from Turkiye over its perceived support for Pakistan, the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee has announced the cancellation of a research collaboration with Inonu University, a Turkish institution. "IIT-Roorkee remains committed to aligning its international engagements with the national interest," the university said. Meanwhile, Lovely Professional University also announced that it will terminate all MoUs with institutions in Turkiye and Azerbaijan.
(With inputs from PTI)

People of J&K want peace, not war: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

Kashmir's chief cleric and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday made a passionate appeal to India and Pakistan to "de-escalate" and "work towards a permanent ceasefire in J&K". Delivering a customary sermon at the Jama Masjid in Srinagar, the Mirwaiz highlighted the deaths of twins in Poonch in the recent military confrontation between India and Pakistan in J&K. He said while everyone was talking about Kashmir, no one was talking to Kashmir, "to its people, those who live here". "For people of Jammu and Kashmir, we want peace, not war. We want resolution, not continuation of the conflict," the Mirwaiz said.

M.P. Minister Devda's comments on Army stir fresh controversy

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Jagdish Devda

Even as a controversy has erupted over Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah's remarks on Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, State Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda courted a row on Friday after he made "insulting" statements on the armed forces.

Mr. Devda made the remarks at a civil defence volunteers training event in Jabalpur, and a video clip of his address went viral on social media.

"Today, the entire country, the country's Army, and the soldiers bow down at the feet of PM Narendra Modi. The reply he has given [to the terrorists] cannot be praised enough," Mr. Devda said.

State Congress president Jitu Patwari alleged that the BJP has a "sponsored programme" running to insult the forces "Instead of taking action against both the Ministers, the BJP is giving them protection. It seems that the top leadership of the BJP has started a sponsored programme of insulting the army," he said, while adding that his party will hit the streets in protest.

Congress national spokesperson Supriya Shrinate termed Mr. Devda's remarks "blasphemous and brazenly shameless" and sought his dismissal.

Mr. Devda, however, issued a clarification later in the day and accused the Congress of "twisting" his statements and "circulating them in a wrong manner".

Stopping conflict a 'big success', level of anger was not a good thing: Trump

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump, who has made repeated claims that his administration brokered a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, on Friday described the cessation of hostilities as a "big success" and said the level of anger between the two neighbours "was not a good thing".

"We are very happy with what happened, I hope it continues, and I think it will, but what happens with India and Pakistan. That was a big success. If you would have seen the level of anger between the two, that was not a good thing," Mr. Trump told the press while returning to Washington from his four-day trip to the Gulf region.

This is the seventh time since May 10 that Mr. Trump has claimed that the U.S. brokered the "ceasefire" between New Delhi and Islamabad.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Indian government sources in New Delhi have been maintaining that the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. They said no third party was involved.

'Encourage direct talks'

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has said it wants to encourage and see "direct" talks between India and Pakistan, an apparent reversal from Mr. Trump's earlier comment that he will work with the two countries for a "solution" on Kashmir.

"Well, look, what we're happy to see is a ceasefire. That's what we've said for the last couple of days now, and we want to encourage and see direct talks between the parties. We have been clear on that," State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott said at a press briefing on Thursday.

"Taking a step back, the President is a peacemaker, and we celebrate the advancement of peace, and we'd hope to see the ceasefire be maintained...," he said.

BJP, BSP condemn SP leader's comments on Air Force officer

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The uproar over Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ram Gopal Yadav's statement referring to the caste of Wing Commander Vyomika Singh failed to die down with political parties on Friday describing the comment as shameful and condemnable.

"Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, who became a professor by continuously torturing Dalits, is not refraining from looking down upon Dalits even at this age. The real face of the SP, which is anti-Dalit, supporting elements working against India, appeasing the Muslim community, and narrow-minded, is again in front of all of us," said BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati termed the statement shameful. "The entire country is united and proud of the valour of the Indian Army against the terrorists in Pakistan. In such a situation, it is extremely unfair to judge, divide the Army on the basis of religion and caste. The mistake that the BJP Minister made in this regard, the senior SP leader has also made the same, which is shameful and condemnable," she wrote on X.

Woman goes missing in village along LoC in Kargil

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Police in Ladakh have intensified the search for a 36-year-old woman from Nagpur who went missing from one of the last villages in Kargil along the Line of Control (LoC) on May 14. Before she went missing, the woman left her 15-year-old son at a hotel in Kargil.

A police official said they had no information if the woman had crossed over to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Her family in Nagpur has been informed, and her son is in the custody of the Child Welfare Committee.

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Name of work : Tender invited for the Production, Packaging and Supply of Milma Chocolates and Custom Packing of RTS Fruit Drink (Milma Mango Refresh) in Tetra packs. Last date for submission: 26.05.2025.
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Tel : 08812-259409 / 532 / 524 email : director.iiopr@icar.gov.in, Web: http://dopr.gov.in
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Sd/-Administrative Officer
ICAR-IIOPR, Pedavegi

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Letter No. 6605 / Invitation for Bids Date :13/05/25
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No.BMC(BAM):- 305 / 2025-2026

1.	The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per annexure "A".	
2.	Nature of Work	CIVIL
3.	No. of work	01 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost	The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A"
5.	E.M.D.	The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security at the rate of Rs.70,000 (Seventy thousand only per each work as mentioned in DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. Of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6.	Class of Contractor	
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 11.00 hrs. of 17/05/25 to 17.00 hrs. of 02/06/25
9.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids.	11.00 hrs. onwards on 03/06/25
10.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids.	Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids.
10.	Mode of submission of Tender	Tender Should submitted On line in - www.tendersorissa.gov.in
11.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Commissioner,
Berhampur Municipal Corporation, Berhampur, Odisha
C-335: OIPR-13035/11/0050/2526

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IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 14.05.2025
Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-CIV-04/2025-26
Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform https://eprocure.gov.in. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of "Renovation of Quarters DQ-2, DQ-11, DQ-18, HE-211, NE-12, NE-23, NE-316, E-5, E-18, D-211, D-213, D-233, D-237, B-701, A-850, NSQ-35 including Electrical work in IISc Campus." Estimated Cost of Project is Rs.63,47,626.53/-. Last date of receipt of application is 03rd June 2025 at 1530Hrs. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in
REGISTRAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
GeM NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Online tenders in Two packet system from reputed contractors for the following works as per tender notice given in Government e-Marketing place (GeM) Portal. The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the GeM portal and only online tenders will be accepted.

1.	Name of the work	Mechanized coach cleaning of PM/SM coaches, PFTR cleaning & watering of coaches & depot premises cleaning at Madurai (MDU) coaching depot and PFTR cleaning & watering of coaches at Dindigul (DG) and Bodinayakanur (BDNK) station for a period of three years.
2.	GeM Bid No.	GEM/2025/B/6221384 Dt : 12.05.2025
3.	Place of work	MDU, DG & BDNK
4.	Value of the work	Rs. 24,07,69,090/- (including GST @ 18%)
5.	EMD (Rs.)	Rs. 13,53,850/-
6.	Tender closing date	17.00 Hrs on 03.06.2025

Note : It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "http://www.gem.gov.in".
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Madurai

INBRIEF

ASI completes conservation work in Lodhi-era stepwell

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund India (WMFI) and the TCS Foundation, has successfully completed the conservation work of 'Rajon ki Baoli', a 16th-century stepwell, located in Mehrauli Archaeological Park in New Delhi. "The 'baoli' (reservoir) was cleaned, de-silted, and connected to proper drainage systems. Fish were introduced to help maintain water quality. Traditional materials like lime plaster and mortar were used to preserve the original character of the structure. The restoration was guided by historical records to retain the site's Lodi-era authenticity", a senior ASI official said.

Delhi High Court refuses interim bail to PFI leader

The Delhi High Court has rejected interim bail on medical grounds to the banned Popular Front of India's (PFI) leader A.S. Ismail, who is accused in a terror case, noting that he was showing improvement. The court said the latest report by an AIIMS medical board showed his condition would not deteriorate if interim bail was not granted. "Material on record indicates that the appellant (Ismail) is being given proper treatment and he is showing improvement even when he is in incarceration. This indicates that the appellant is being given proper treatment in jail," the court said. The court further ordered jail authorities to take him to AIIMS once every month.

SC strikes down retrospective environmental clearances

Before starting a new project or expanding one, a clearance must be obtained, says court; concept of an *ex post facto* nod is in derogation of basic principles of environmental jurisprudence, it adds

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held the grant of *ex post facto*,or retrospective, Environmental Clearances (EC) by the Centre to building projects and constructions a "gross illegality" and an anathema against which the courts must come down heavily.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, in a judgment on a plea filed by Vanashakti, an NGO, restrained the Union government from granting *ex post facto* clearances in any form to regularise illegal constructions.

The court struck down the 2017 notification and 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) of the Centre, which in effect recognised the grant of *ex post facto* ECs, and connected government circulars, orders, and notifications as illegal and completely arbitrary.

However, the Bench clarified that ECs already granted till date under the 2017 notification and the 2021 OM would be unaffected by the judgment.

Accusing the Centre of "crafty drafting" to clear illegal constructions through retrospective ECs, the court said the government was only protecting project proponents who had committed gross illegality by commencing construction or operations in these illegal constructions without obtaining prior EC.

Judicial stand: Development cannot come at the cost of the environment, says the Supreme Court. FILE PHOTO

"Before undertaking a new project or expanding or modernising an existing one, an EC must be obtained... The concept of an *ex post facto* EC is in derogation of the fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence and is an anathema to the EIA Notification of January 27, 1994," Justice Oka observed.

The judgment said the government had issued the 2017 notification despite a clear declaration of the law in favour of prior EC by the Supreme Court in the *Common Cause* judgment the same year.

"The reason why a retrospective EC or an *ex post facto* clearance is alien to environmental jurisprudence is that before the issuance of an EC, the statutory notification warrants a careful application of mind, besides a study into the likely consequences of a proposed activity on the environment," Justice Oka explained.

The effect of granting an *ex post facto* clearance would amount to giving permission to complete the construction of a project which had started without prior EC. In cases in which the construction was already completed and activities had begun, the retrospective EC would facilitate continuation.

Thus, in effect, the *ex post facto* EC regularised something which was illegal with retrospective effect.

Referring to the 2021 OM, the court said the Union government had "cleverly" avoided the words "*ex post facto*", but the provisions had the effect of allowing a retrospective regime.

"The 2021 OM talks about the concept of development. Can there be development at the cost of the environment? Conservation of the environment and its improvement is an essential part of the concept of development. Therefore, going out of the way by issuing such OMs to protect those who have caused harm to the environment has to be deprecated by the courts... Even the Central government has a duty to protect and improve the natural environment," Justice Oka underscored.

'India to do whatever is necessary to build ties with Afghanistan'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a telephone conversation with the 'Acting Afghan Foreign Minister' Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, officials here said India would undertake "bold moves" on Afghanistan and "do whatever is necessary" in near future to establish stronger relation with the Taliban-ruled country.

As part of that process, South Block will consider the possibility of extending humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees who have been forcefully repatriated by Pakistan.

On Thursday, Mr. Jaishankar, in his conversation with Mr. Muttaqi, indicated that India would deepen humanitarian support to Afghanistan, which has been under Taliban rule since August 2021. Sources informed that some of the requirements of the Taliban administration had been under consideration in India and that Mr. Muttaqi had raised the requirements of Afghanistan with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri when the two met in Dubai on January 8.

Officials here said that short of formal recognition, India will make a "bold move" on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and that New Delhi attached "lot of significance" to the Jaishankar-Muttaqi conversation as it came against the backdrop of the upcoming visit of Mr. Muttaqi to Iran and China.

Mr. Muttaqi and Mr. Jaishankar had discussed cooperation with the Taliban to take advantage of the Chabahar port in Iran, which is acquiring greater importance as India has banned trade through the Pakistan border. India had cleared 160 Afghan trucks carrying dry fruits and nuts through Attari but these vehicles remained stranded on the Pakistani side till Friday, when Pakistan allowed them to enter India.

'New normal'

The Taliban have described Mr. Muttaqi's multi-nation visit next week as part of Afghanistan's "active foreign policy" which has been shaping up Kabul's "balanced" posture in South Asia. Officials here indicated that India is willing to do "whatever is necessary" regarding the Taliban in the present context, which has been described as a "new normal" by the External Affairs Ministry.

CJI praises Justice Bela Trivedi for being firm, fearless, and dedicated

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Friday lauded Justice Bela M. Trivedi for her meteoric rise from the subordinate judiciary to become the 11th woman judge appointed to the Supreme Court.

Justice Trivedi is retiring on June 9, but Friday marked her last working day. Chief Justice Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih accompanied Justice Trivedi on the Ceremonial Bench held in honour of the retiring judge.

The Chief Justice said he found Justice Trivedi firm, fearless, and dedicated as a judge. Justice Trivedi, who was elevated to the top court on August 31, 2021, was hailed by members of the Bar, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

Justice Bela M. Trivedi

The Chief Justice, however, deplored the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for deciding to not hold the traditional official farewell ceremony for Justice Trivedi.

"There are different types of judges. There are some who give relief. There are others who do not give relief. Judges are ultimately human beings. Everybody has different views... But I must openly deprecate the stand taken by the association (SCBA)... Such a stand ought not to have been taken by the association," Chief Justice Gavai said.

The Chief Justice, however, expressed his appreciation to senior advocate Kapil Sibal, president of SCBA, and senior advocate Rachna Shirvastava, vice-president of SCBA, for attending the Ceremonial Bench despite the resolution of the Bar body.

Justice Masih said he was sorry that the traditional SCBA farewell ceremony was not being held.

In her speech, Justice Trivedi reflected on the plurality in the Bench and Bar of the Supreme Court. "Ultimately, what matters most is institutional integrity, which sustains national integrity," she said.

SC questions plea against Rohingya deportation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday criticised petitioners who claimed 43 Rohingya refugees, including women and children, were dropped in the Andaman sea for deportation to Myanmar.

"When the country is passing through a difficult time, you come up with fanciful ideas," Justice Surya Kant asked them.

The Bench, also comprising Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, questioned the authenticity of materials placed before it by petitioner Mohd Ismail and others, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves.

It refused to stay further deportation of Rohingya refugees, remarking that similar relief had been denied by the court earlier.

VSSC Director says ISRO is committed to sustainable space exploration practices

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The progress made by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in developing eco-friendly launch vehicle systems reflects a strong commitment to sustainable space exploration practices, S. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has said.

Dr. Nair was speaking after inaugurating a two-day national conference on Emerging Vistas in Chemical Engineering (EVINCE 2025), organised by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers, Thiruvananthapuram chapter, here on Friday.

Emphasising the growing role of sustainable technologies in the space arena, he noted the advancements the ISRO had made in developing eco-friendly systems using semi-cryogenic, cryogenic, and liquid oxygen-methane propellants. In this context, he also underscored the critical role of chemical engineering in India's technological advancement, particularly in the space sector.

S. Unnikrishnan Nair

Presiding over the session, M.C. Dathan, Mentor (science) to the Chief Minister of Kerala, and former VSSC Director, said there was a need to place emphasis on sustainability and the principles of circular economy to develop innovative solutions for mitigating carbon footprint. Anirudha Bhalchandra Pandit, Vice-Chancellor of the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai; C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology , Thiruvananthapuram; R Vijay, Director, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials; and S.K. Manu, Deputy Director, VSSC, also spoke during the session.

EVINCE 2025 is themed on 'The art and science of artificial intelligence and additive manufacturing for revolutionising the design and production of materials.'

NCW aims at raising gender sensitivity on campus

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women on Friday launched "Campus Calling", an initiative that aims to enhance gender sensitivity, raise awareness on the prevention of sexual harassment, and address cybercrimes impacting students.

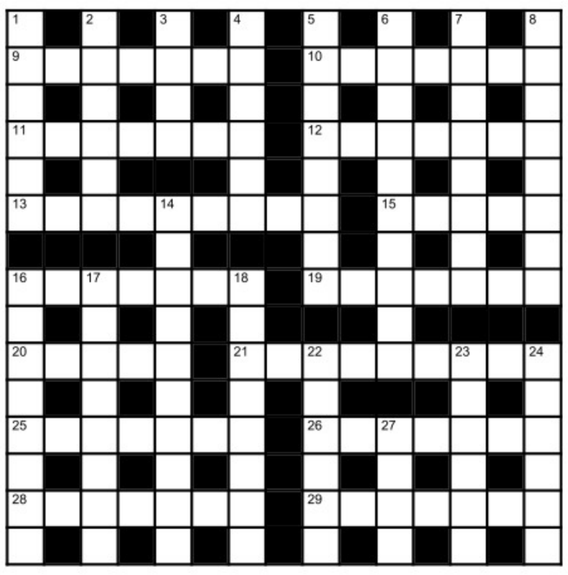
It marks a significant step towards building gender-sensitive and cybersafe educational spaces across the country, with NCW and Yuvamanthan, a youth development platform, leading the charge in empowering youth and fostering safe environments for all, according to a statement. The programme aims to reach over 1,000 universities and colleges, making it one of the most extensive youth-centric initiatives undertaken by the NCW.

TH CROSSWORD + 14487

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Decorates cot, kisses and leaves the first partner (7)
10 Heard you returned bull and collected money, it's wifelike (7)
11 Weird HQ note taken primarily in secrecy (2,3,2)
12 Corruption in bank? Book removed and cooked noticeably (7)
13 Toy traded by Electrical Engineer (5,4)
15 Debut in first test, Rohit to hit out (5)
16 Woke up bloodshot, of a bluish colour (4-3)
19 Shrink showcasing success in national television's lady (European) (7)
20 Beats wife and flies (5)
21 Out of den, Bin Laden gave explosive unobstructed (9)
25 Note missing in rent money as per second hearing (7)
26 Insects' pictures shows egg inside (7)
28 White horse in the front is an expresser of disgust, lets out a neigh (7)
29 Rising frost worried Islamic nation (7)

Down

1 Recede from battle with electricity board (3,3)
2 Perhaps our bosses have a Tesla; reordered (6)
3 UK school certificate changes, Chinese is removed and edited (4)
4 Fly with group in empty turbojets above earth (6)
5 Stud made a mistake, lost rupees and hid out (8)
6 Concentrating on LOC is in, managed by a Lieutenant Governor (10)
7 Divided group, led by gender-ambiguous person, met the journo (8)
8 Deposit millions in the centre, it's mine (8)
14 Standards of dirty casks terrible (10)
16 We are (in the centre) aware of strange tree (4-4)
17 Oddly Smith is wearing glasses, primarily elegant and suave man (8)
18 Doctors hold viewpoint on promotional materials (8)
22 Asserts that sins will leave a void inside (6)
23 All the plant & animal life in a region have boron traces (6)
24 Listener captivating police officer and engineer simpler (6)
27 Sailor has sex appeal just a small part (1,3)

SUDOKU

1					4	2		
			1		9	7		5
		7					4	3
	6			1	8			
5								2
			2	9			5	
8	2					6		
7		5	4		1			
		6	3					1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6522 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

J	D	R			B	O	S	
S	E	Q	U	O	I	A	B	L
U	B	B	E	R	L	R	T	F
O	I	R	A	L	T	E	R	E
G	O	O	U	T	P	U	T	Y
S	U	D	U	M	F	A	S	H
I	O	N	I	S	T	A	M	T
T	R	E	O	S	L	O	P	I
A	N	O	Y	E	A	H	H	R
E	I	N	S	A	R	R	A	N
G	E	M	E	N	T	S	C	A
P	R	E	D	E	D	U	C	T
E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E	T
L	I	N	A	I	E	B	I	V
A	L	V	E	I	R	O	N	A
G	E	N	R	E	N	E	G	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	7	6	5	3	8	2	4
8	3	6	4	2	7	5	1	9
5	4	2	1	9	8	7	6	3
2	1	8	5	3	9	4	7	6
4	5	3	7	1	6	2	9	8
6	7	9	8	4	2	1	3	5
9	6	4	2	8	1	3	5	7
7	2	5	3	6	4	9	8	1
3	8	1	9	7	5	6	4	2

FAITH

Her presence saves

When Lord Rama told Sita to stay back and not come with Him to the forest, She said that even if She were given a chance to be in heaven, She would reject it, if it meant being away from Him. Finally, Rama agreed to take Sita with Him. In the Ramayana, we find that whenever Sita was beside Rama, He did not kill anyone, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. Even when someone deserved to be killed, Rama spared the person's life, if Sita was beside Him. When Viswamitra took Rama to the forest to protect his Vedic altar, he told Rama to kill Tataka. And Rama killed the demoness. At this time, Rama was not married. When Rama, Lakshmana and Sita were in the forest, Viradha confronted them and carried away Rama and Lakshmana. Sita screamed in fear when she saw Rama and Lakshmana being carried away. The asura was killed. Although Rama was married at the time of this killing, Sita and He were not together, when Viradha was killed.

When Soorpanakha was chased away, after Lakshmana cut off her nose and ears, she complained to Khara, and he sent asuras to kill Rama. Rama asked Lakshmana to guard Sita, while He dealt with the asura forces. Rama killed all the asuras sent by Khara. So here again, Sita was not with Him when he killed the asuras.

Rama chased Maricha, who was in the form of a golden deer. He was far away from the place where Sita was, and so He killed Maricha. Rama did not kill Soorpanakha, although she threatened Sita. That again was because Sita was with Him. Kakasura pecked at Sita's breast and the wound bled. But Kakasura's life too was spared because of Sita's presence.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,331	-0.24
US Dollar	85.57	-0.03
Gold	96,450	1.47
Brent oil	65.42	1.20

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2555.00	35.00
Adani Ports	1407.40	1.20
Apollo Hosp	7015.00	-57.50
Asian Paints	2353.60	23.70
Axis Bank	1208.80	-0.30
Bajaj Auto	8482.50	156.50
Bajaj Finserv	2033.60	-8.30
Bajaj Finance	9167.00	-21.50
Bharat Elec	363.90	13.50
Bharti Airtel	1814.00	-53.20
Cipla	1499.90	-2.30
Coal India	404.80	0.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1230.70	-5.60
Eicher Motors	5509.50	43.50
Eternal Ltd.	245.76	3.17
Grasim Ind	2804.20	-20.60
HCL Tech	1659.90	-36.10
HDFC Bank	1934.70	0.90
HDFC Life	750.55	-0.65
Hero MotoCorp	4345.30	20.30
Hindalco	657.55	-3.80
Hind Unilever	2381.40	26.20
ICICI Bank	1454.00	3.20
IndusInd Bank	780.20	-0.30
Infosys	1589.90	-23.10
ITC	435.70	3.05
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	277.00	3.30
JSW Steel	1021.80	-16.50
Kotak Bank	2108.20	1.80
L&T	3604.70	-13.50
M&M	3135.60	-8.70
Maruti Suzuki	12995.00	43.00
NestleIndia	2408.80	10.70
NTPC	343.10	1.15
ONGC	247.27	-0.34
PowerGrid Corp	300.20	0.55
Reliance Ind	1456.40	2.20
SBI Life	1773.40	-11.20
State Bank	792.10	-15.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	665.50	-9.30
Sun Pharma	1734.90	-5.20
TataConsumerProduct	1168.00	20.80
Tata Motors	730.70	2.60
Tata Steel	157.55	0.20
TCS	3561.30	-18.60
Tech Mahindra	1617.00	-12.10
Titan	3633.70	-3.10
Trent Ltd.	5583.00	5.50
UltraTech Cement	11905.00	11.00
Wipro	254.31	-2.26

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.30	85.63
Euro	95.58	95.94
British Pound	113.44	113.87
Japanese Yen (100)	58.62	58.85
Chinese Yuan	11.84	11.89
Swiss Franc	101.97	102.36
Singapore Dollar	65.69	65.95
Canadian Dollar	61.10	61.33
Malaysian Ringitt	19.85	19.96
Australian Dollar	54.75	54.96

Source:Indian Bank

'FinMin undertaking parallel review of RBI buffers with eye on dividends'

Since January, RBI officials are said to be reviewing the central bank's Economic Capital Framework; a lower Contingency Risk Buffer would mean higher transfers to the govt., which is reportedly seeking to hike its defence expenditure this year

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Finance is taking direct interest in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) review of its rules pertaining to capital buffers, which affect how much dividend it can send to the government, *The Hindu* has learnt.

Since January this year, RBI officials have been reviewing the central bank's Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

The ECF was last reviewed in 2018 by a committee headed by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan, which recommended that the bank's Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) should be 5.5-6.5% of the RBI's balance sheet. Once these levels are met, the rest is to be transferred to the government as surplus or dividend. The CRB is a precautionary fund against a crisis that could hurt financial stability.

Strengthening coffers: A higher surplus would certainly give the government greater fiscal flexibility, said an official. REUTERS

A lower CRB would mean higher transfers to the government, which is reportedly seeking to hike its defence expenditure this year due to the ongoing tensions with Pakistan.

The Ministry of Finance is conducting a "parallel" review process to arrive at its own findings on the buffers, a government official told *The Hindu*.

On Thursday, the RBI announced that its central board had held its 615th meeting and that it had reviewed the ECF. "The RBI's review process is parallel and our review process is running parallel," the government official aware of the developments told *The Hindu*. "There is a perception that the Jalan committee recommendations on the kind of buffers the RBI must maintain were too conservative, and that there might be scope to lower these. Let us see what the RBI decides, but government will also form its view."

The recommendations of the Jalan committee were adopted in 2019.

"The government is not worried about its finances, even if defence expenditure is hiked," the official asserted. "But, if the RBI can send a higher surplus while also maintaining adequate safety buffers as per its own assessment, then this higher surplus would certainly give us [the government] greater fiscal flexibility."

Adani ends pact with Celebi at Mumbai, Ahmedabad airports

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. said it has terminated the ground handling concession agreement with Turkish firm Celebi at Mumbai and Ahmedabad airports with immediate effect and has asked it to handover all ground handling facilities for seamless service at these airports.

"Following the government of India's decision to revoke Celebi's security clearance, we have terminated the ground handling concession agreements with Celebi at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport," a spokesperson said on behalf of the Mumbai and Ahmedabad airports.

Interim arrangement

Meanwhile, Mumbai airport has appointed Indo Thai Airport Services as the interim ground handling provider for three months. "Indo Thai Airport Services will work with Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) to provide the highest level of service aimed at meeting the existing Service Level Agreements (SLA) and conditions," a spokesperson for the airport said in a statement. A tender process would also be initiated in three days for onboarding a long-term ground handling partner.

'Air India lobbies govt. to axe IndiGo lease with Turkish carrier'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Air India has lobbied Indian officials to halt rival IndiGo's leasing tie-up with Turkish Airlines, citing business impact as well as security concerns sparked by Istanbul's support for Pakistan, according to a source and a document reviewed by *Reuters*.

Amid growing public anger in India against Turkey's stance on Pakistan in the India-Pakistan conflict, Indians have been cancelling holidays.

The Centre on Thursday revoked security clearance of Turkish ground handling service firm, Celebi, citing national security.

Celebi, however, has moved the Delhi High Court to set aside the decision, arguing it was issued without any warning to the company.

U.N. snips outlook for India growth to 6.3% on global slowdown

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The United Nations (U.N.) has lowered its growth projections for India for this year and the next, to 6.3% and 6.4% respectively or 0.3 percentage points lower than earlier projections.

The forecast is in line with slower growth forecast for global economy on heightened trade tensions and policy uncertainty.

The U.N.'s mid-year update of its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 report forecast global growth to slow to 2.4% in calendar year 2025 and to 2.5% in 2026 both lower by 0.4 percentage points than January projections.

India stays one of the fastest-growing large economies with resilient govt. spend and consumption

For India, the data is based on calendar years rather than financial years, it uses. The U.N. noted despite trade and tariff talk uncertainties, India can remain reasonably resilient.

"Despite a projected moderation, India stays one of the fastest-growing large economies supported by resilient consumption and government spending," the U.N. said.

Hyundai Motor India Q4 net slips 4% to ₹1,614 crore, board okays ₹21 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) reported a 4% year-on-year drop in consolidated net profit to ₹1,614 crore, reflecting the challenging operating environment for the company.

Consolidated revenue grew marginally by 1.5% to ₹17,940 crore.

For FY25, consolidated net profit dropped 7% to ₹5,640 crore while revenue was almost unchanged at ₹69,193 crore. The board recommended a dividend of ₹21 per share for FY25.

The company said it would introduce 26 products (including refreshed models) by FY2030 comprising 20 ICE and six EVs.

The company is cautiously optimistic on local demand.

To unveil hybrid

Additionally, it will introduce hybrids. HMIL said the new plant in Pune would be operational in the third quarter of FY26 giving impetus to its growth in India.

"Looking ahead, we remain cautiously optimistic on domestic demand outlook in near-term amid macro-turbulences and weakening customer sentiments," said Unsoo Kim, MD, HMIL.

"While we expect FY26 domestic growth to be in line with industry estimates of low-single digit, we are aiming at 7-8% volume growth in exports by improved focus and leveraging strong brand equity and legacy in key emerging markets," he added.

Ashok Leyland to pay second interim dividend of ₹4.25

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. of the Hinduja Group has announced its board of directors, at a meeting held on Friday declared a second interim dividend of ₹4.25 per equity share of face value ₹1 for the financial year ended March 31, 2025.

In all, the company had announced so far for FY25 a total interim dividend of 625% ie., ₹6.25 per share on a face value of ₹1.

"This dividend decision reflects the company's strong operational performance and robust financial position. This also reinforces Ashok Leyland's ongoing commitment to enhancing shareholder value and returns," it said.

ALL announced a total interim dividend of 625% for FY25.

The second interim dividend will be paid to eligible shareholders on or before June 14, the firm said.

BHEL Q4 net rises 3% to ₹504 crore, to pay dividend

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) reported a 3% year-on-year growth in consolidated net profit to ₹504 crore compared with ₹490 crore in the year-earlier period.

The company's revenue from operations during the quarter grew by 9% YoY to ₹8,993 crore.

For FY25, the company's consolidated net profit almost doubled to ₹534 crore from ₹282 crore in the year-earlier period.

The board of directors of the company has recommended a final dividend of ₹0.50 per share for FY25.

NCLT to hear IREDA's Gensol insolvency petition on June 3

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

Sate-run Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) on Friday moved an insolvency petition against Gensol Engineering Ltd. before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad following which NCLT directed issue of notices to Gensol and posted the case for hearing on June 3.

IREDA filed the petition against Gensol on May 14 under Section 7 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code claiming a default of over ₹510 crore, it mentioned in a exchange filing.

IREDA sought appointment of Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) for Gensol citing the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) interim order against the company.

IREDA said Gensol was headless and directors had walked out post SEBI order and the company had projects worth crores of rupees and somebody needed to manage the show.

However, NCLT, Ahmedabad Judicial Member Shammi Khan and Technical Member Sanjeev Kumar said they will hear the parties first after issuing notices and posted the case for hearing on June 3.

INBRIEF

'Sugar season may end with 52-lakh ton carry-over stock'

The Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) estimates the current season to end in September with a net production of 262 lakh tonnes, after diverting almost 33 lakh tonnes for ethanol production. The carry-over stock for the 2025-2026 sugar year is expected to be 52 lakh tonnes. Sugar production for the 2024-2025 marketing season (October to September) was 257.44 lakh tonnes till May 15 against 316.33 lakh tonnes for the same period last season.

ZF Wind Power commissions 13.2 MW test rig in Coimbatore

ZF Wind Power Coimbatore has inaugurated a 13.2 MW test rig in Coimbatore for gearboxes and powertrains. The company said in a press release that the capability of the test rig included real-time simulation of field conditions and torque reversal cycles, supporting validation up to 20 MNm. In India, ZF Wind Power has so far supplied close to 60 GW of wind gearbox capacities from Coimbatore for both domestic and global markets.

Halt transactions with Turkey, Azerbaijan, GJC tells jewellers

The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) has urged industry members to cease business transactions with Turkey and Azerbaijan. "This decisive action follows Turkey's public support for Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 Indian civilians. Such a stance has raised critical concerns regarding national security and the ethical direction of trade relationships," the GJC said in a statement.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi – 110029

DNB FINAL EXAMINATION – JUNE 2025

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS DNB Final Theory Examinations on **25th, 26th, 27th and 28th June 2025.**

The online applications are being invited from **15.05.2025(03:00PM onwards) to 03.06.2025 (till 11:55 PM)** at NBEMS website:

https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=dnb

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/35-2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. in Lakh) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/P&C/T-07/0525 RFx 5000001403 (4th Call) Procurement of Van Mounted Ground EHV Cable Fault Locator System.	1647.28 / 25,000.00	26.05.2025 16:00 / 26.05.2025 16:10

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-P&C)
Tel.No.022-69852720/022-69852717 Cell.No.09619469933
Email:1) C.E. (CPA) 2) E.E. (Group-P&C), CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

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डॉ. होमी भाभा मार्ग, पाषाण, पुणे – 411 008
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune – 411008
(Advt. No. PER/03/2025)

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune invites applications for recruitment of MRFP- Research Fellows: -

Name of the post	Number of post
MRFP- Research Fellow	30 Posts (Reservation: SC-4, ST-4, OBC-8, EWS-4, UR-10) * 4 posts reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disability.

Detailed advertisement is available at IITM website
www.tropmet.res.in/Careers.
Last date of receipt of application is 10.06.2025.
Hard copy of the application will not be accepted.

Director, IITM, Pune

TIRANA

Zelenskyy, European leaders call Trump following Istanbul talks

GETTY IMAGES

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders held a phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump following Russia-Ukraine ceasefire talks in Turkiye. The conversation on the sidelines of a European leaders' meeting in Albania involved Emmanuel Macron, Friedrich Merz, Keir Starmer and Donald Tusk. AFP

THE HAGUE

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan, under probe, steps aside temporarily

AP

International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan, being probed for alleged misconduct, is stepping down temporarily, his office announced on Friday. Mr. Khan "communicated his decision to take leave until the end" of the UN internal investigation, and his deputy prosecutors will run the office in his absence. AFP

DHAKA

Around 3,000 Bangladeshi women rally against gender-based violence

AP

Around 3,000 women rallied in Bangladesh for the Muhammad Yunus led-interim government to support a commission tasked to address gender-based violence. Bangladesh's coalition of hardline Islamist parties has called for the commission to be abolished, saying the reforms it suggested were against Islamist ideology. AFP

BANGKOK

Thailand monk arrested over $9 million temple embezzlement

AFP

The Thai police arrested a Buddhist monk over allegations that he embezzled more than $9 million from a temple he ran. The temple is funded by devotees. Abbot Phra Thammachiranuwat from Wat Rai Khing is accused of siphoning more than $9.05 million from the temple's bank account into his own. AFP

Russia, Ukraine agree to swap prisoners, fail to reach truce

The warring parties agree to 'present their vision of a possible future ceasefire'; Moscow takes note of Kyiv's request for a meeting of Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy; the two sides will meet again

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Russia and Ukraine agreed a large-scale prisoner exchange, said they would trade ideas on a possible ceasefire and discussed a potential meeting between Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin in their first direct talks in over three years on Friday.

But coming out of the highly anticipated talks in Istanbul, which lasted just over 90 minutes, there were few signs of more significant progress toward ending the three-year war.

Kyiv was seeking an "unconditional ceasefire" to pause a conflict that has destroyed large swathes of Ukraine and displaced millions of people.

Common ground: Russian, Ukrainian and Turkiye officials at a meeting for Ukraine-Russia peace talks in Istanbul on Friday. AFP

Moscow has consistently rebuffed those calls, and the only concrete agreement appeared to be a deal to exchange 1,000 prisoners each.

The two sides also said they would "present their vision of a possible future ceasefire", said Russia's top negotiator, Vladimir Medinsky. Russia also took note of Ukraine's request for a meeting of Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy, he said. "Overall, we are satisfied with the results and ready to continue contacts," Mr. Medinsky added.

Ukraine's top negotiator, Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, confirmed the prisoner swap in a separate statement and also said a ceasefire and a possible presidential meeting had been discussed.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who presided over the talks, said the sides had "agreed in principle to meet again" and would present ceasefire ideas "in writing".

At least 93 killed, hundreds injured across Gaza Strip

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

At least 93 people were killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza on Friday as U.S. President Donald Trump wrapped up his West Asia trip.

Strikes overnight hit across Gaza, including the outskirts of Deir al-Balah and the city of Khan Younis. Gaza's health ministry said hundreds more were injured in addition to those killed.

There had been widespread hope that Mr. Trump's regional trip could usher in a ceasefire deal or renewal of humanitarian aid to Gaza. An Israeli blockade of the territory is now in its third month.

Israel said on Friday it was continuing its operations against militants in Gaza and that it struck 150 targets in the past day. In northern Gaza, it eliminated several militants who were operating in an observation compound, it said.

Uprooted lives: Palestinians make their way with belongings as they flee Israeli strikes in the northern Gaza Strip on Friday. REUTERS

Hours-long attack

The strikes lasted for hours into Friday morning and sent people fleeing from the Jabaliya refugee camp and the town of Beit Lahiya. They followed days of similar attacks that killed more than 130 people.

An Israeli official said the strikes on Friday were preparatory actions in the lead-up to a larger operation and to send a message to Hamas that it will begin soon if there isn't an agreement to release hostages.

A lot of people are starving in Gaza, says U.S. President

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that "a lot of people are starving" in the besieged Gaza Strip. Mr. Trump's comments on Gaza came as he capped the first foreign tour of his second term, which saw him visit several Gulf countries

"We're looking at Gaza. And we're going to get that taken care of. A lot of people are starving," Mr. Trump said in Abu Dhabi – part of his West Asia tour, which excluded Israel.

Israel cut off aid to Gaza on March 2, a tactic intended to force concessions from militant group Hamas, which is still holding dozens of Israeli hostages it seized in October 2023.

Iran and European powers hold nuclear talks in Turkiye

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Iran met with European powers on Friday to discuss its nuclear negotiations with Washington, while U.S. President Donald Trump issued a new threat unless the Iranians "move quickly" towards a deal.

The meeting in Istanbul followed remarks by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warning of "irreversible" consequences if Britain, France and Germany move to reimpose UN sanctions lifted under a landmark 2015 agreement.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, who attended the talks in the Turkish city, said in a post on X: "We exchanged views and discussed the latest status of the indirect nuclear negotiations and the lifting of sanctions."

Mr. Gharibabadi added that, if necessary, Tehran would meet again with the so-called E3 – the European parties to the 2015 deal along with China, Russia and the United States.

On the draw

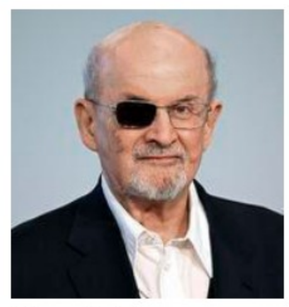
Man who stabbed Rushdie on stage gets 25 years in jail

Associated Press
MAYVILLE

The man convicted of stabbing Salman Rushdie on a New York lecture stage in 2022, leaving the prizewinning author blind in one eye, was sentenced Friday to serve 25 years in prison.

A jury found Hadi Matar, 27, guilty of attempted murder and assault in February.

Rushdie did not return to court to the western New York courtroom for his assailant's sentencing but submitted a victim impact statement. During the trial, the 77-year-old author was the key witness, describing how he believed he was dying when a masked attacker plunged a knife into his head and body more than a dozen times as he was being introduced at the Chautauqua Institution to speak about writer safety.



Salman Rushdie

Before being sentenced, Matar stood and made a statement about freedom of speech in which he called Rushdie a hypocrite.

Matar received the maximum 25-year sentence for the attempted murder of Rushdie and seven years for wounding a man who was on stage with him. The sentences must run concurrently because both victims were injured in the same event, District Attorney Jason Schmidt said.

Matar next faces a federal trial on terrorism-related charges.

Sport

Venezuelan Vegas birdies five of last six holes to grab the lead

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Agence France-Presse
CHARLOTTE

Venezuela's Jhonattan Vegas birdied five of his last six holes, ending with a spectacular 27-foot birdie putt to seize a two-stroke lead after Thursday's opening round of the PGA Championship.

The 40-year-old South American fired a seven-under-par 64 to grab the lead at Quail Hollow.

"It feels amazing," Vegas said. "It's what we dream of, what we train for, what we work for every day."

Australian Cam Davis and American Ryan Gerard shared second on 66 while a pack on 67 included German Stephan Jaeger, England's Luke Donald and Aaron Rai, New Zealand's Ryan Fox and American Alex Smalley.

Stunning start: Vegas fired a seven-under-par 64 to grab the lead at Quail Hollow. AFP

While Vegas had a dream start, it was a grind for the feature group of top-ranked Scottie Scheffler, defending champion Xander Schauffele and Masters champion Rory McIlroy.

Scheffler fired 69, Schauffele shot 72 and McIlroy stumbled in on 74 at a course where he has won four times.

Scheffler, second-ranked McIlroy and third-ranked Schauffele all made double bogeys at the par-four 16th. Scheffler and Schauffele found water from the fairway and complained of mud clinging to fairway balls.

Top scores: 64 - Jhonattan Vegas; **66 -** Ryan Gerard, Cam Davis; **67 -** Alex Smalley, Stephan Jager, Ryan Fox, Luke Donald, Aaron Rai; **68 -** Alexander Noren, Tyrrell Hatton, Matthew Fitzpatrick, Nicolas Echavarria, Rafael Campos, Robert MacIntyre, Ryo Hisatsune, Rasmus Hoejgaard, Keegan Bradley, JT Poston, Michael Thorbjornsen.

UTT's sixth season to be served up from May 31

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The sixth season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) will begin at the EKA Arena in Ahmedabad on May 31 with a double-header, including a match between defending champion Dempo Goa Challengers and home team Ahmedabad SG Pipers.

Eight franchises will compete across 23 ties with the finale set for June 15.

Each team will play five ties in the group stage and Aafter the league stage, the top four teams on the points table will progress to the knockout stage.

Piastri leads McLaren one-two in practice

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
IMOLA

Formula One champion McLaren dominated practice and demoralised Ferrari fans in Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix practice on Friday with Oscar Piastri leading Lando Norris one-two in both sessions.

Australian Piastri, winner of four of the last five races, lapped the Imola circuit with a best time of one minute 16.545 seconds in the opening session and then lowered that to 1:15.293 in the later one.

Norris, 16 points behind his championship-leading teammate in the standings after six races, was 0.032 and 0.025 slower in the respective practices.

The first session was red-flagged and did not restart after Brazilian rookie Gabriel Bortoleto crashed with some three minutes remaining.

Carlos Sainz was third in that session for Williams with Mercedes' George Russell a further 0.002 slower. Pierre Gasly was a surprise third for Renault-owned Alpine in Practice Two, but 0.276 slower than Piastri, with Russell fourth.

Lewis Hamilton, limbering up for his first race in Italy as a Ferrari driver, was fifth and 11th respectively and Max Verstappen was seventh and fifth with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc ending the day sixth fastest.

India cruises into the final

Sports Bureau

India scored a 3-0 victory over Maldives in the semifinal of the SAFF U-19 football championship in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, on Friday. The host will take on Bangladesh, which pipped Nepal 2-1 in the first semifinal, in the summit clash on Sunday.

India took the lead through Danny Meitei in the 14th minute before Omang Dodum doubled the advantage with a strike seven minutes later. Though Maldives fought gallantly, India enhanced the lead through Prashan Jajo in the 65th minute.

The results: Bangladesh 2 (Ashiqur 74, Nazmul 81) bt Nepal 1 (Sujan 87); India 3 (Danny Meitei 14, Omang Dodum 21, Prashan Jajo 65) bt Maldives 0.

RESPECT

Kohli should be incredibly proud of his Test career, says Bobat

K. MURALI KUMAR

Virat's just business as usual, as he always is. There's enough of the public and the nation's attention on him, he doesn't want any more of that. He should be incredibly proud of what he's done as a Test player. At RCB, we are all incredibly proud — RCB director of cricket Mo Bobat on Virat Kohli.

ON AND OFF

It's been a patchy season for Knight Riders, reckons Pandey

K. MURALI KUMAR

Manish Pandey said that the lack of a winning streak has hurt KKR. "Last time, we won a lot of games. This time we were winning one and losing one. Our batting has been fine, and we have been bowling well. But it has been a little patchy. Hopefully, we have a similar strong core next year and can win games like last year".

BIG BLOW

Starc to miss remainder of IPL; Stubbs returns for Capitals

K.R. DEEPAK

Delhi Capitals confirmed that Mitchell Starc, *in pic*, will play no further part in IPL 2025. In Starc's absence, DC will hope that left-armer Mustafizur Rahman fills the void in the remaining three league games. While Tristan Stubbs joined DC for its training session on Friday, Faf du Plessis' participation remains doubtful.

PRIORITIES

Johnson urges overseas players to skip remainder of IPL

FILE PHOTO

Former Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson said it was not wise for overseas players to return for the remainder of the IPL and urged them to prioritise safety over pay cheques. "While Cricket Australia has empowered players to make their own decisions, the weight of those choices can be heavy," Johnson said.

IPL aims for a resurrection post a short interruption

The first match sees a rejuvenated RCB take on KKR; Gujarat Titans seems primed for a top-two finish, while Punjab Kings wouldn't want to squander a fine chance for a maiden title

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The Indian Premier League is not new to disruptions. Over its 17-year history, two General Election cycles and two waves of the Covid-19 pandemic have thrown schedules asunder, compelled a manic rejigging of the timetables and even forced the event out of the country, lock, stock, and barrel.

Tightly wound calendar

In a tightly wound international cricket calendar, where one series literally bleeds into the other, these disturbances can feel like the snapping of a guitar string, rendering many a chord incomplete and the instrument practically useless.

But IPL is also famous for its 'bouncebackability', returning with increased might after every such upheaval. On Saturday, when it resumes after a week's suspension owing to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan, the hope is for another glimpse of the resurrection king.

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru – Kolkata Knight Riders clash at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here marks the beginning of the home stretch of this year's competition – 13 league-stage contests and four playoff matches, including the final on June 3.

Key personnel: Kohli, post his Test retirement, will want to ensure that he takes RCB past the finish line this time around in the IPL. K. MURALI KUMAR

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	11	8	3	0	16	0.793
Royal Challengers	11	8	3	0	16	0.482
Punjab Kings	11	7	3	1	15	0.376
Mumbai Indians	12	7	5	0	14	1.156
Delhi Capitals	11	6	4	1	13	0.362
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	6	1	11	0.193
Lucknow Super Giants	11	5	6	0	10	-0.469
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	11	3	7	1	7	-1.192
Rajasthan Royals (E)	12	3	9	0	6	-0.718
Chennai Super Kings (E)	12	3	9	0	6	-0.992

E: Eliminated

And franchises will wish that the bodies haven't gone too cold, and it doesn't take much for the athletes to spring back to life. "It was an unusual few days," said Mo Bobat, RCB's director of cricket, on Friday. "First and foremost, it's good that the conflict has come to an end. And for many of our lads, it was a well-earned rest. They enjoyed getting home, seeing family, even if it was for just a couple of days. Actually, we were saying that the boys have come in with a lot of energy."

For RCB, if this energy can translate into a solid performance, it can mean the sealing of a playoff berth with two games left. A win for KKR, on the other hand, can keep it afloat. Table-topper Gujarat Titans seems primed for a top-two finish, while third-placed Punjab Kings wouldn't want to squander a fine opportunity to make a dash for a maiden title.

Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, in all probability, will fight for the fourth spot while Lucknow Super Giants, like KKR, is on the brink of crashing out. The already eliminated Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings would want to use the remaining fixtures to generate some amount of tailwind to propel their campaigns next year.

"A break like this could help," said KKR's Manish Pandey. "I am pretty sure guys would have gone home, seen videos and tried to work on things that they didn't have the opportunity to do. The only thing I am hoping for is to win the last two games and end on a high".

Neeraj breaches the 90m mark but finishes second behind Weber

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
DOHA

Neeraj Chopra finally breached the elusive 90m frontier with a 90.23m throw but the trailblazing Indian had to settle for a second place behind Germany's Julian Weber in a dramatic men's javelin contest in the Doha leg of the Diamond League Meeting series here on Friday.

The 27-year-old double Olympic medallist Indian sent his spear to 90.23m in his third attempt to join a list of javelin throwers, led by his current coach Jan Zelezny of Czechia, who had recorded 90m-plus efforts. He became the third Asian and 25th overall to achieve the feat.

However, Weber turned the tables and took the top spot with his sixth and final throw that measured 91.06m.

Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada was third with a 84.65m.

Finally! Neeraj's third effort helped him cross the elusive 90m barrier. AFP

"I am very happy to have breached the 90m mark but it's a bitter-sweet experience," said Neeraj.

"My coach Jan Zelezny said today is the day when I can throw 90m. The wind helped as the weather was little warm and that helps. I told Julian that we can throw 90m. I am happy for him (Julian)."

The other Indian in the fray, Kishore Jena finished eighth with a below-par throw of 78.60m.

Easwaran.
FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Easwaran to lead India-A; Karun, Harsh get the nod

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Abhimanyu Easwaran will lead the India-A squad for the two tour games against England Lions starting on May 30 and the intra-team match against the senior team ahead of the country's five-match Test series against England next month.

Shubman Gill, one of the contenders for the Test captaincy following Rohit Sharma's retirement, and his Gujarat Titans teammate B. Sai Sudharsan will be available from the second match.

The selectors have included Karun Nair following a stellar domestic season.

India-A squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel (Vice-Capt & WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan (WK), Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Anshul Kamboj, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sarfaraz Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harsh Dubey.
The schedule: May 30-June 2: vs England Lions (Canterbury); June 6-9: vs England Lions (Northampton); June 13-16: India-A vs India (Beckenham).

Praggnanandhaa wins Superbet Classic Romania

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BUCHAREST

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa emerged champion in the Superbet Chess Classic Romania, the opening event of the Grand Chess Tour, here on Friday after winning the tie-breaks against French players Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

Praggnanandhaa edged out Vachier-Lagrave in the final tie-break game to take the top prize.

Earlier, he played out a draw with Levon Aronian of the United States to finish in a three-way tie for first place with Firouzja and Vachier-Lagrave. The three finished with 5.5 points each after nine rounds.

Vachier-Lagrave defeated an off-form Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland with white pieces going for complications in a Ruy Lopez game.

In other matches of the day, World champion D. Gukesh played out a draw with USA's Fabiano Caruana while American Wesley So held Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

Gukesh after a topsy-turvy run, ended tied fifth on four points.

Windfall! Praggnanandhaa after receiving his big prize from FIDE's Michael Khodarkovsky. FLICKR/GRAND CHESS TOUR

Ahmedabad likely to host IPL final

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai is likely to host at least one of the four playoffs in IPL 2025, with Ahmedabad set to stage the final.

Sounded out

The Hindu understands that the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) officials have been sounded out by the Board of Control for Cricket in India "to be ready for at least one, possibly the first two" playoff matches.

The original fixtures of the IPL 2025 had followed the convention of awarding the final and Qualifier 2 to the defending champion and Qualifier 1 and Eliminator to the losing finalist.

As a result, Kolkata and Hyderabad were announced as the venues for the playoffs.

The playoffs will begin on May 29, with the final to be played on June 3.

RCB targets a playoff spot, KKR hopes to stay afloat

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Playoffs qualification beckons Royal Challengers Bengaluru while elimination stares Kolkata Knight Riders in the face as the two sides meet in an Indian Premier League fixture at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

A win for RCB over the defending champion will guarantee a top-four berth and clear the course for it to stake claim for a top-two spot. For KKR, a defeat will send the outfit crashing out. The home side will certainly fancy its chances, for it has all overseas personnel – except injured pacer Josh Hazlewood – back after the week-long break, and has also seen skipper Rajat Patidar make significant progress after suffering a hand injury in the game against Chennai Super Kings on May 3.

RCB has won four matches on the trot, the last of which was the nerve-wracking two-run win over CSK. Though it came nearly a fortnight ago, it is the kind of victory that shows a team's championship mettle.

Another boost come with the news that all-rounder Romario Shepherd, hero in that win over CSK, will be available for the full tournament running up to June 3 despite being named in the West Indies squad that will meet Ireland and England for six combined ODIs starting May 21.

For KKR, its overseas contingent, with the exception of Rovman Powell and Moeen Ali, has arrived but there is a back-breaking job at hand. And not only does it have to win its remaining two matches, it needs favourable results elsewhere.

Rahane. K. MURALI KUMAR

Today's match

RCB vs KKR

Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **35**

RCB **15** | KKR **20**

PREVIOUS MEETING

RCB won by seven wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Alcaraz makes the summit clash as does Gauff

ITALIAN OPEN

Agencies
ROME

Carlo Alcaraz advanced to his first Italian Open final with a 6-3, 7-6(4) victory over Lorenzo Musetti on Friday.

It's the third final in three clay-court events this season for Alcaraz, who won the Monte Carlo Masters and finished runner-up in the Barcelona Open before withdrawing from the Madrid Open because of injury.

A four-time Grand Slam champion, Alcaraz is preparing to defend his title at the French Open, which starts on May 25.

On a windy day at the Foro Italico, Alcaraz said it wasn't about playing "brilliant," but rather "smart tennis" was required.

Meanwhile on Thursday, Coco Gauff overcame China's Zheng Qinwen 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-6(4) to advance to the women's final.

On course: Alcaraz had the measure of Musetti in straight sets. GETTY IMAGES

Barcelona wins LaLiga

Athletic Bilbao clinches Champions League spot with an easy victory over Getafe

Star turn: Yamal sets Barcelona on its way to victory with this strike. AFP

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

A stunning Lamine Yamal strike helped crown Barcelona La Liga champion with a 2-0 win at local rival Espanyol on Thursday, with victory ensuring Real Madrid cannot catch it at the top of the table.

Yamal's effort and Fermin Lopez's goal took Hansi Flick's side seven points clear of Los Blancos with two matches remaining, to clinch Barcelona's 28th title and complete a superb domestic treble.

Yamal opened the scoring after 53 minutes before Lopez added another in the 95th.

"It's time to celebrate," said Barca coach Flick. "It's in our DNA (to want to learn), it's normal, and this is what I want."

Athletic Bilbao, meanwhile, sealed Champions League qualification with a 2-0 win at Getafe on Thursday in LaLiga. Athletic is fourth and now eight points clear of sixth-place Real Betis, ensuring it will play in Europe's premier competition.

The results: Osasuna 2 (Catena 25, Budimir 82) bt Atletico Madrid 0; Rayo Vallecano 2 (De Frutos 37, Lejeune 45+6) drew with Real Betis 2 (Hernandez 51, Isco 61-pen); Espanyol 0 lost to Barcelona 2 (Yamal 53, Lopez 90+5); Getafe 0 lost to Athletic Bilbao 2 (Guruzeta 76, Vivian 89).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Srijesh and Ashrith pile it on for Neptune CC

Srijesh Parthiban (177) and Ashrith Reddy (200 n.o.) powered Neptune CC to a thumping win over Zodiac CC in the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: Neptune Cricket Club 495/3 in 50 overs (Fairouz Khan 57, Srijesh Parthiban 177, Ashrith Reddy 200 n.o.) bt Zodiac CC 58 in 21.1 overs (Kshitij Shetty 4/28, Gaurav Raj 3/0).

Bangalore Sports Club 139 in 27 overs (Hyderali Sayyed 40, Gokhulnathan Kannan 29, Samhith Dixit 6/40) lost to National United 140/7 in 35.1 overs (Samhith Dixit 48 n.o., Arush Jain 4/34).

Swastic Union (2) 327/4 in 50 overs (Arnav Anil 45, Arsh 54, Kashif Ahmed Ali 83, R. Nithin 60, Tejasveer Singh Vohra 30 n.o., Harish Bam 44 n.o.) bt Minerva Cricket Club 196/7 in 50 overs (G.M. Praneel 103).

The Bangalore Cricketers 318/6 in 50 overs (Ashith Kumar Gowda 47, Harsha Murthy 26, A. Rishik 151 n.o., Abhinav Kulkarni 46, Shrehaan Chauhan 4/57) bt Friends Union (2) 305/9 in 50 overs (Debraj Nandi 28, Sanjit Sathish 106, Shrehaan Chauhan 101, Shravanth Gowda 30 n.o., Chethan Nagaraju 4/45).

Mathikere CC 77 in 27.5 overs (Yaeesh Rahaman 5/26) lost to Friends Union Cricketers, KGF 81 for no loss in 8.1 overs (Suresh Araganji 52 n.o.).

Visweswarapuram (1) 194 in 49.3 overs (Akshaj Kathuria 38, Nalin Goyal 46, Rithvik Kulasekar 35, Poonacha Ballachanda 5/36) lost to Social Cricketers 195/6 in 47.5 overs (Shaurya Tandon 63, R.K. Shwetansh 45 n.o.).

Cavaliers CC 147 in 34 overs (Gnan Swaroop 35, Chandra Shekar 25, Saathvik Vasisht 3/30, Lakshmi Narayana 3/12) lost to Jawahar SC (1) 149/7 in 43.2 overs (J.C. Karkera 82 n.o.).

Young Lions Club 331/9 in 50 overs (Brahmanya Theertha 25, M. Rohith 99, R. Shivaraj 68, Rithwik Kumar 29 n.o., Anirudh Vannala 3/72) bt Chintamani SA 143 in 32 overs (Suchetan Harihar 28, Harshith Raja 46, Vignesh Subhramaniyan 3/25, A. Suraj 4/37).

Vishnu's unbeaten ton highlights CBT's win

Vishnu Sathwik (106 n.o.) helped CBT defeat Play Smart in the Tiger Cup under-12 tournament here.

The scores: Play Smart 187 in 28.1 overs (Pranjal 71, Vaishnavi Kammath 68) lost to CBT 191/5 in 29.3 overs (Vishnu Sathwik 106 n.o., Bharathan Mohan 45).

Anand's Cricket Coaching Academy 145/8 in 30 overs (P. Shrey 27, Swaraj Govekar 25) bt Herons 143/8 in 30 overs (Chayank Reddy 42, Amay Prabhu 25, Arush 3/31).

Praneeth stars for Magadi CC

Praneeth (4/24) took Magadi CC to a five-wicket win over BPCA in the Prof. Ananthachar Memorial under-12 tournament at APS grounds here.

The scores: KCC Gurukul 75 in 24.3 overs lost to Herons 78/1 in 11.5 overs (Chayank 27 n.o., Luvik 26 n.o.).

BPCA 118/7 in 25 overs (Suraj 29, Praneeth 4/24) lost to Magadi CA 120/5 in 19.1 overs (Kanishka 25, Viraj 3/32).

Stand in Rohit's name unveiled at Wankhede

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Veteran cricketer Rohit Sharma on Friday said it will be a surreal feeling to play at the Wankhede Stadium with a stand in his name. "Something like this is really special. Wankhede is such an iconic stadium...," Rohit said after a stand in his name was unveiled at the stadium.

The Mumbai Cricket Association also unveiled stands in memory of former India captain late Ajit Wadekar and after cricket administrator Sharad Pawar.

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Ricardo for B.T.C. Charitable Trust Trophy

BENGALURU: Ricardo appeals most in the B.T.C. Charitable Trust Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the opening day's races to be held here on Saturday (May 17). False rails (width about 7m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ICH DIEN PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Mehra (5) Rayan 62.5, 2. Emeraldo (11) G. Praveen 62, 3. Queen Beandaz (7) Sandesh 61.5, 4. Star Symphony (3) Afsar 61.5, 5. N R I Gold (6) S. Hinayathulla 60, 6. Posthaste (–) (–) 59.5, 7. My Solitaire (4) Chethan K 58.5, 8. Empress Bella (2) C. Umesh 58, 9. Meghann (1) Ramswarup 57.5, 10. Embosom (9) Jagadeesh 57 and 11. Estefania (8) Aleemuddin 56.5.

1. MEHRA, 2. EMPRESS BELLA, 3. QUEEN BEANDAZ

2 KUNIGAL STUD PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Prime Abbess (2) Neeraj 61.5, 2. All Attraction (4) G. Vivek 61, 3. Fortunate Son (6) P.P. Dhebe 60.5, 4. Aherne (3) Darshan 59, 5. Knotty Patton (5) Sandesh 57, 6. Mystical Air (1) Trevor 55.5, 7. Isabelle (7) A. Prakash 52.5 and 8. Springsteen (8) S. Saqlain 52.

1. ALL ATTRACTION, 2. PRIME ABBESS, 3. FORTUNATE SON

3 INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY TROPHY (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. CR Seven (10) Angad 56, 2. Eagle Eye (11) G. Vivek 56, 3. Sea Glory (6) A.A. Vikrant 56, 4. Victoria Cross (12) Neeraj 56, 5. Best Of Us (1) R. Vaibhav 54.5, 6. Dreamer (7) N.S. Parmar 54.5, 7. Elysium (4) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Mnemosyne (9) Suraj 54.5, 9. Mutual Trust (3) Shreyas S 54.5, 10. Silver Quest (5) P. Mani 54.5, 11. Vibrant Queen (8) Rayan 54.5 and 12. Ziva (2) Trevor 54.5.

1. MNEMOSYNE, 2. DREAMER, 3. EAGLE EYE

4 B.T.C. CHARITABLE TRUST TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Crown Drive (5) P. Sai Kumar 62, 2. Star Glory (7) Yash 60.5, 3. Czar (2) Aleemuddin 60, 4. Imperial Blue (1) Pavan 59, 5. Aldgate (4) Antony 58, 6. Ricardo (4) Sandesh 55.5, 7. Vivaldo (3) I. Chisty 55, 8. Metzinger (8) S. Saqlain 50.

1. RICARDO, 2. STAR GLORY, 3. CROWN DRIVE

5 WELCOME PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. See The Light (3) Trevor 60, 2. Defence Counsel (7) R. Manjhi 59.5, 3. Eclipse Pulse (2) I. Chisty 58.5, 4. Monterio (9) N. Darshan 58.5, 5. Joon (10) Vishal Bunde 58, 6. LG's Star (4) Jagadeesh 56.5, 7. Carter (11) Rayan 55, 8. Verrazzano (12) Yash 54, 9. Westlake (1) C. Umesh 53.5, 10. Divine Protector (8) K. Sai Kiran 53, 11. Adelanto (6) Koshi K 51 and 12. Gismo (5) V. Vishwa 51.

1. SEE THE LIGHT, 2. LG'S STAR, 3. DEFENCE COUNSEL

6 RACING PATRONS PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-00: 1. Val D'Aran (3) Ritesh G 62, 2. Divine Art (1) Suraj 61.5, 3. Knotty Blush (7) Trevor 60.5, 4. Densetsu (-) (-) 59, 5. Chotipari (2) Ramswarup 55.5, 6. Elusive Art (4) Sandesh 54.5, 7. Tesorino (6) I. Chisty 54.5, 8. IL Volo (5) Salman Khan 54, 9. Carat Love (-) (-) 50.5 and 10. Smile Of Beauty (8) R. Manjhi 50.

1. DIVINE ART, 2. KNOTTY BLUSH, 3. CHOTIPARI

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